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Hafa Adai!

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$142M FY '17 budget bill finalized

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Set for introduction Thursday

The House of Representatives has finalized a $142-million fiscal year 2017 government budget bill and is set to introduce it in a session this Thursday.

House Bill 19-196 appropriates $1.42 million for the Commonwealth Development Authority; $13.155 million for the Commonwealth Ports Authority; $50.13 million for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; $2.56 million for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.; $2.08 million for Office of Public Auditor; $49.54 million for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.; and $3 million for the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

The Public School System gets $36.27 million; the Board of Education gets $188,507, while the Northern Marianas College is budgeted $4.42 million.

The bill gives the CNMI governor 100 percent reprogramming authority within the Executive Branch and also offers salary cap exemptions, essentially salary increases, to several

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Torres says military display of Hawaii training crucial, informative

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says a two-day visit to U.S. training areas in Hawaii last week was "crucial" to their ongoing relations to the U.S. military, which proposes to set up live fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan and a divert airfield on Tinian.

Torres and members of the Tinian leadership and officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority visited Hawaii last week on an invite from the U.S. Pacific Command's Lt. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, the single point of contact for the CNMI for Defense projects in the NMI.

"This visit to the facilities of Pacific Command was informative and productive to our relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense. The

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gives a two thumbs up sign while standing inside a military training vehicle while on a two-day tour of Marine Corp. and Air Force facilities last week, Aug. 17 18.

Gulick admits DHS did not follow CNMI governor's advice on CW-1 cap

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» USCIS director, however, says late governor Inos' views were considered in good faith

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District 26 Director David G. Gulick admits that the Department of Homeland Security did not follow then-CNMI governor Eloy Inos' advice to reduce the previous year's CNMI-only transitional workers (CW-1) permits by a nominal one or to 13,998 for Fiscal Year 2016 cap.

Nonetheless, Gulick says Inos' views were considered in good faith in DHS' decision on the FY 2016 CW-1 cap of 12,999.

Gulick discussed CW-1 visas in his Aug. 18, 2016 declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Saturday. The declaration is being attached to support DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson's and co-defendants' brief in opposition to the Commonwealth

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INSIDE

LOCAL
The Saipan Awaodori Team sent three members to Japan to join the East Asian country's annual Awa Odori Festival in Koenji, Tokyo.
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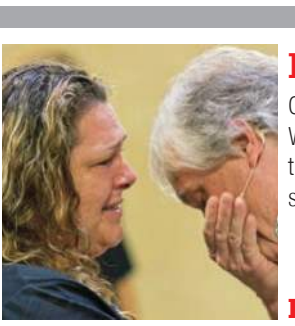

NATION
Outside the small town of Walker, Louisiana, a rural Baptist church has become an oasis for flood victims.
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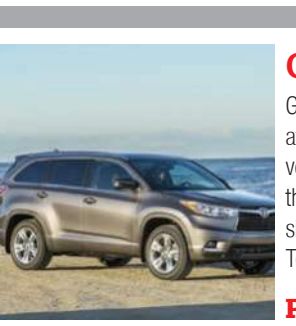

OVERDRIVE
Given America's intense love affair with crossover utility vehicles, or CUVs if you will, there's an inescapable conclusion once you drive the 2016 Toyota Highlander Hybrid.
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Local

NMC's Project PROA Center finally opens

The Northern Marianas College's Project PROA Center finally opened yesterday with the hopes of further promoting and nurturing the indigenous culture to the youth, especially those of Northern Mariana Descent. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held yesterday at the NMC campus.

Project PROA or Promote Retention Opportunities Advancement is intended to help promote the Chamorro and Carolinian culture to indigenous students that come from low-income families or those who have disabilities who need academic support.

Program director Maria Hofschneider Aguon said Project PROA would provide tutoring, advising, mentoring, and outreach, academic, and cultural activities to the students in the 11th and 12th grades, and first year for college.

JON PEREZ

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, eighth left, and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), 10th left, lead the ribbon cutting of the Northern Marianas College's Project PROA Center yesterday at the NMC Campus. From left, Reps. BJ Attao (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Jude Hofschneider, (R-Tinian), NMC interim president Dave Attao, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, a Project PROA staffer, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Antonia Tudela, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Municipal Council vice chair Alice Igitol, Project PROA program director Maria H. Aguon, and Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) are the others in the photo.

Project PROA is a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education worth $269,000 and Aguon said that their goal is to sustain the program in the next five years. "We received the grant in October 2015 but because of Typhoon Soudelor, we were behind in implementing it."

"Now we're kicking it off. Today is a special day for NMC since the center would serve indigenous students, Chamorro and Carolinian. Our goal is to sustain the program that it continues to grow. The whole thing of the grant is to be able to sustain it in the future," she added.

The program would pay for the Chamorro and Carolinian classes of first year college students, while the 11th and 12th graders will get academic support, mentoring, and tutoring as well as taking part in various outreach, academic, and cultural activities.

"So that they [indigenous students] can grow and develop their cultural heritage. The project is also in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs," said Aguon.

"The DCCA has been a big part of the program with the support of Jack Sablan and Gloriana Teuira, where they helped in the showcase of artifacts of the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures," she added.

Aguon said the center is also open to students who are from other nationalities. "But the priority is Chamorro and Carolinian students, but we also wanted to embrace the cultures of the other students because we want them to know who we are."

"The cultural activities will be a part for them to learn our culture. [Exchange students] could come at the center and learn about the indigenous culture. So when people ask who are the Chamorros and Carolinians, we can say 'this is who we are and we celebrate our culture.'"

Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) said that the Legislature is also doing its part in promoting the indigenous culture by recently passing House Bill 19-127, which aims to establish the Northern Marianas Cultural Center.

"The center will undertake programs and projects that will protect, preserve, promote, and enhance the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, heritage, and traditions for the interest and benefit of persons of Northern Marianas Descent," said Ogumoro.

"It will help create jobs and contribute to the growth of the Commonwealth's economy. The NMCC will encourage the practice of our traditional ways of life by showcasing and promoting the unique culture, heritage, and tradition of our Chamorro and Carolinian people of the CNMI."

The bill, which would create NMCC and serve as a cultural repository of historic and artistic materials, is now in the Senate awaiting their approval. ***(Jon Perez)***

Lt. Gov. Hocog's son seeks police assistance against ex-Rota cop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Dennis Atalig Taisacan, a former Rota police officer who was arrested last July for domestic violence, was arrested again last Wednesday for allegedly violating a court order of protection and for breaking several times into an apartment unit on Saipan occupied by a former police officer, whom he accused of having an affair with his wife.

The 50-year-old Taisacan also allegedly complained of headache and injury as he refused to be taken to Superior Court for bail hearing on Friday morning.

The hearing was continued Friday at 1:30pm.

Apparently, it took five members of the Department of Corrections' Emergency Response Team to restrain the defendant.

Citing that Taisacan poses danger to the community and is not able to follow court's order, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho increased to $10,000 cash bail from the $5,000 cash that the court had initially imposed.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 29 at 9am.

Camacho said the court will appoint a private counsel for Taisacan because the Office of the Public Defender has conflict of interest.

Taisacan has two other pending cases—a criminal (domestic violence) and a Family Court matter.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

Police Detective Peter A. Aldan revealed in his report that it was former Saipan police officer Victor Val Hocog who posted bail for Taisacan in his previous domestic violence case.

Victor Val Hocog, a former Saipan police officer, is the son of Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog.

Aldan said Victor Val Hocog called the Department of Public Safety on Wednesday at 3:33pm about a disturbance at his apartment unit.

Two police officers responded to the apartment, where they met Victor Val Hocog, who complained that he had caught Taisacan numerous times trying to enter his unit through the sliding door.

Taisacan allegedly has assumed that Victor Val Hocog has been sleeping with his wife and that she was in his apartment.

At 4:25pm that day, police arrested Taisacan for disturbing the peace and violating a court's order of protection.

Aldan also disclosed that on Aug. 11, Taisacan's wife called 911 and requested police's assistance after Taisacan appeared at her house in violation of court's protection order and even asked $10 from her.

Taisacan allegedly arrived at his wife's house on board a car at 7am and asked if they could work things out.

The wife got scared, refused to reconcile with him, and told him he was violating a court's protection order for seeing her.

Taisacan asked for $10 instead and told her he knew she had money because she was "selling" herself. She told him to leave then she locked the bedroom and called 911.

Two police officers responded to the house, but Taisacan was no longer there. She requested the police to escort her to her sister-in-law's house for fear that he would come back.

During the hearing on Friday afternoon, a DOC captain informed the court about Taisacan not cooperating and resisting to comply with DOC officers to be transported to the court for bail hearing at 10:30am that day.

Taisacan informed the court that he had a headache and an injured foot.

The captain said DOC officers provided Taisacan with two tablets of Tylenol for his headache and that DOC's nurse also tried to provide him medical treatment but he refused.

The DOC captain informed the court that they are willing to provide the medical treatment. The DOC captain also informed the court that five members of Corrections Emergency Response Team had to restrain Taisacan and bring him to court.

The captain said they informed defendant of his rights for a bail hearing but he still refused to be brought to court.

The captain said Taisacan yelled profanities at DOC officers and called them idiots who do not know what they are doing.

Camacho expressed his appreciation to DOC officers for "showing professionalism in administering the necessary force" in transporting Taisacan to court for his bail hearing.

Last July, police arrested Taisacan for allegedly slapping his wife and hitting her on the head with a butane gas canister at their residence in As Gonno, Saipan.

Taisacan was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He was subsequently released after posting bail.

In this July incident, Aldan stated in his report that it was Taisacan's 17-year-old son, who reported that his father was beating up his mother.

Aldan said investigation showed that prior to the beating, the defendant was drinking liquor that afternoon.

Poll: Over 80 pct of Americans back Kilili's shark fin trade ban

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A new national poll shows that 81 percent of Americans support Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill to ban the trade of shark fins in the United States, he said.

The national poll, conducted by the non-partisan polling company iCitizen, surveyed 1,000 registered American voters online from July 12-15 and found broad bipartisan support for the legislation, according to the conservation group, Oceana, which released the poll on Sablan's "Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act" last week.

"An even greater number, 89 percent, agree that shark finning is a cruel and wasteful practice," Sablan said in his newsletter Saturday. "Our local government, along with two other insular areas and 11 states, has already passed shark fin legislation."

Other than Sablan, Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced the bill that would ban the trade of shark fins in the United States.

"It's clear that Americans support a ban on the trade of shark fins—and Congress should listen," said Oceana campaign director Lora Snyder in a statement last week. "The demand for shark fins, a demand the U.S. currently perpetuates, encourages the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning and is decimating shark populations worldwide, much like the demand for elephant tusks and rhino horns has severely jeopardized those animal populations. Currently, 11 U.S. states have taken action to protect sharks and have banned the sale of fins, but the rest of the country needs to follow their example. The American public knows that shark fins have no place in the United States."

MVA wants joint board meeting with CPA

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion wants to have a joint board meeting with their counterparts from the Commonwealth Ports Authority to help find ways in solving the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's numerous problems.

Saipan Tribune tried a number of times to get comments from CPA acting executive director Chris Tenorio or any other airport official, but they have yet to respond to efforts to set up an interview, and numerous phone calls and emails.

Concepcion, in last Friday's MVA board meeting, said the air-conditioning unit at the Saipan airport has yet to be fully fixed with the airport putting several huge fans near the airline counter areas to cool off departing tourists, who are in line to have their baggage checked in.

The conveyor belt also has broken down early this month and is still not operational, forcing airport personnel and ground handling crews of Pacific Oriental Inc. to manually unload the baggage and luggage of the airline passengers, either arriving or departing.

Reports had it that CPA needs to fly in an expert from the mainland to fix the damage in the conveyor belt and it would take at least six months to repair everything.

Concepcion

"The air-conditioning unit needs to be fixed since it's an inconvenience to the passengers. You're standing in line and it's hot. The broken conveyor belt is another one that needs to be fixed. Imagine how long it would take for you to wait for you to get your bags," said Concepcion.

"We should sit down as a board and have a joint meeting with the CPA board. There are a lot of concerns with the airport right now," Concepcion told the members of the MVA board present in the meeting held in their San Jose office's conference room.

MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce then advised Concepcion to raise the issues in the upcoming CPA regular board meeting on Thursday at the CPA conference room at the George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

» Airport now using large fans due to broken A/C system

"You can attend the meeting as a member of the community and raise the concerns during the public comments. If they still failed to act on our concerns, then we will request to have a joint board meeting with them," was Aldan-Pierce's advice to Concepcion.

Concepcion, in an earlier interview by the *Saipan Tribune*, said the CNMI airports, especially the Saipan International Airport, are the first and last thing tourists see when they arrive and leave the CNMI. The Tinian and Rota Airports, and all seaports are also under CPA.

Early this month, the lights at runway 7/25, the Saipan airport's main landing strip, were not functioning at full capacity causing delays or cancellation of flights. There are other issues facing CPA right now and Concepcion together with the entire MVA board is hopeful their counterparts would act on it immediately.

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Bench trial of Andres Roberto for sexual assault starts

A Superior Court bench trial began yesterday in the case against Andres B. Roberto, a man accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl outside a residence on Saipan.

The alleged victim took the witness stand yesterday. Defense attorney Joaquin Torres is expected to continue his cross-examination on the girl when the trial resumes today at 9am.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, who is presiding over the bench trial, stopped Torres' examination past 12pm after the defense lawyer requested for time to investigate the girl's testimony that she talked to other persons about what Roberto did to her.

Torres questioned why those names that the girl mentioned were never provided by the government during discovery.

Naraja asked the girl again about the names of the persons, but she refused to talk.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr., counsel for the government, objected to the defense's request. Glass said it's also the first time they heard about that testimony.

Naraja asked the parties to submit pleadings about the issue and ordered the parties to come back in court today, Tuesday, for the resumption of the trial.

The girl would sometimes pause during her testimony and wipe her tears.

Roberto, 49, allegedly handed $60 for a fundraiser to the 14-year-old girl, then hugged her, kissed her on the mouth, squeezed her breast, and rubbed her butt in the back of a house in the evening of April 19, 2016.

The girl said she pushed Roberto away, threw the money back at him, and ran into the house.

Police said because of the incident, the girl was so traumatized that her mother once saw her in possession of a knife on her bed, as she wanted to kill herself.

Torres asked why she stated in her statement that she did something bad and not Roberto did something bad.

The girl replied that she should have done something like screaming when the incident happened.

Roberto is on trial for sexual assault of a minor in the third degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He pleaded not guilty.

Roberto is the brother of former CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife official Raymond B. Roberto, who was acquitted in 2014 by a federal jury of charges that he enticed three minor girls to engage in prostitution and tampered a witness while he was in jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Improved 'weapons' vs diabetes, heart disease touted

Hardt Eye Clinic opthalmologist Ron Hardt attended the 76th Annual Scientific Session of the American Diabetes Association held in New Orleans from June 10 to 14.

During this meeting, the 2016 ADA Standards of Care in Diabetes just released that the drug Metformin is also effective against cardiovascular disease and heart attacks.

Metformin is now the initial medications for treatment of diabetes and is also the safest of the medications used to treat diabetes.

"It [2016 ADA Standards of Care in Diabetes] now calls for Metformin to be used as the initial medication," said Hardt. "All of the major treatment lowers the risk for blindness and kidney disease, but until this year only Metformin was proven to lower death from heart disease. It is the least expensive of all the available medications, and also the safest from serious side effects."

Hardt attended the many educational presentations about Metformin in the forum and found out that not only does Metformin help battle against diabetes and heart disease, but also other various functions of the body.

"There were studies presented showing how increasing the usage of Metformin would lower the rate of most complications including all causes of mortality, heart disease, kidney failure/dialysis, and of course the complication I see most, blindness and severe vision loss," says Hardt.

Hardt is also aiming to bring insulin pumps into the CNMI. "We are trying to introduce insulin pumps to the CNMI, I made the initial contacts with the appropriate companies so we can do this in the future," said Hardt. "Over 30 percent of all patients with Type 1 diabetes (the kind usually starting in childhood) are using an insulin pumps there (the U.S. mainland)."

Hardt wants to bring continuous glucose monitoring into the CNMI. "CGM is very widely used in the mainland U.S. It is very valuable in treating patients at risk for hypoglycemia, and those whose blood sugar patterns are very hard to interpret and treat. It provides 24-hour data on how the blood sugar varies," claims Hardt.

New forms of insulin are being researched into. "There were also numerous presentations on several new forms of insulin, like Toujeo, which in studies provides more consistent control of blood sugar with lower risk for side effects, and hypoglycemia," added Hardt. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

GULICK

From Page 1

Utilities Corp.'s and its affected 13 foreign workers' motion for preliminary injunction.

CUC and its 13 CW-1 workers are suing Johnson and others for not acting on their CW-1 permit renewals.

Plaintiffs CUC's and 13 CW-1 workers' motion for preliminary relief will be heard on Sept. 9, 2016 at 9am.

In his declaration, Gulick said while the ultimate decision as to each year's CW-1 cap is a decision made by the DHS secretary in his discretion as authorized by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, DHS has fully considered in good faith any advice provided by the CNMI governor with respect to the cap.

With respect to FY 2016 CW-1 cap of 12,999 at issue, Gulick said when DHS was considering that decision, he spoke to the governor, the late Eloy Inos, by telephone on July 2, 2015, and again in person at his office in Saipan on July 8, 2015, to obtain his views regarding the cap.

Gulick said Inos' advice was to reduce the FY 2015 cap of 13,999 by a nominal one, or to 13,998.

Ultimately, Gulick said, in the exercise of its broad discretion to carry out its statutory obligation to annually reduce the numerical cap ultimately to zero, and after due consideration of the governor's comments in conjunction with other applicable factors, DHS did not set the cap for FY 2016 at the specific number proposed by Inos.

Gulick pointed out that he is aware that plaintiffs' complaint alleges that DHS has failed to consider advice and comments by the CNMI governor in setting the annual CW numerical limitations.

"This allegation is not correct," he said.

Aside from Johnson, plaintiffs are also suing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah R. Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

Plaintiffs' counsel James Sirok alleged that the failure of USCIS to make a determination on the CW renewal petitions violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sirok alleged that plaintiffs have suffered a legal wrong because of the conduct of defendants DHS and USCIS in setting the annual CW-1 caps for fiscal years 2013 through 2016.

Sirok said CUC will be adversely affected by the loss of these CW-1 workers in its ability to maintain and operate its power generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sirok asked the court to declare that the failure of USCIS to render a determination on the CW-1 renewal petitions for the 13 workers was unlawful, contrary to law, and in violation of plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

CUC employs over 300 workers, including 42 nonresident workers.

Sirok said the foreign workers' work force within CUC is an essential and necessary work force needed for the utility to provide power, water, and wastewater utility services to the CNMI.

In Johnson's and co-defendants' brief in opposition, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration assistant director Glenn M. Girdharry said plaintiffs have failed to show a compelling likelihood of success on the merits of their claims for relief under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Girdharry said plaintiffs seek an end-run around the DHS secretary's exclusive authority to establish the cap and instead seek regulation by court order.

Girdharry said plaintiffs also failed to show that irreparable harm will result absent court intervention.

"Indeed, plaintiffs have failed themselves created the imminent harm they seek to enjoin by failing to expeditiously file the extension petitions in compliance with well-established agency guidance or make efforts to recruit domestic workers to fill CUC's most critical jobs," he pointed out.

Girdharrry said plaintiffs have not offered any specific allegation regarding the critical need for these particular employees and, in fact, the record suggests that CUC is operational in their absence.

"Plaintiffs' attempt to avoid the inevitable is not a reason to disregard Congress' directive or to set aside the secretary's considered judgment. The public interest favors compliance with federal mandates," he said.

On the FY 2016 CW-1 visas cap issue, Girdharry said DHS explained that it reached this determination (a 7.2 percent reduction) in order to provide "a meaningful reduction that aids DHS in the implementation of the mandated cap reductions to zero over the transition period," while accommodating "continued economic growth within the CNMI."

He said DHS also indicated that before reducing the numeral limitation by 1,000 visas, it considered the effect "that any reduction in the number of CW-1 workers available will have to account for new investments and the expansion of existing businesses in order to support such economic growth."

Thus, Girdharry said, DHS arrived at the 12,999 figure by taking the actual need for nonimmigrant workers in FY 2015 and factoring in potential increased need for additional workers in FY 2016 (to "accommodate continued economic growth within the CNMI that might result").

TORRES

From Page 1

opportunity for the leaders of Tinian to see and express their views on the proposed activities on their island is a crucial component of our ongoing relationship," Torres said yesterday. "This, along with our continued dialogue under the 902 consultative process is an important part of ensuring that our voices and concerns are heard and that decisions are made with the most information possible."

According to an itinerary of the trip, copies of which were obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the CNMI officials Wednesday schedule included briefings from U.S. PACOM, the Pacific Air Forces, and the Marine Corps Forces Pacific. Wednesday's schedule also included a Pearl Harbor Barge Tour and military hosted evening social.

Last Thursday's schedule included activities the MARFORPAC, broken up into a briefing at a Radar Tower, a tour of machine gun/rifle firing ranges, a tour of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and a display of amphibious assault vehicles, and "Military Operations on Urban Terrain" training.

The activities with PACAF included a tour of the Courtyard of Heroes, a PACAF Command brief, a display and tour of a KC-135, a military refueling aircraft.

BUDGET

From Page 1

positions in government.

Under the section on salary cap exemptions, the annual salary of the resident department heads of the First and Second Senatorial district, or Rota and Tinian respectively, are increased to $45,000.

The annual salary of the resident deputy commissioners of the islands of Rota and Tinian are also amended to $45,000.

The annual salary for the special assistant for management and budget/CIP administrator is increased to not less than $62,000.

Under the bill, $5.97 million is budgeted for the Judicial Branch, including $361,266 for the local drug court.

Another $7.34 million is budgeted for the Legislature, including $300,000 each for the leadership accounts for the House and Senate.

Offices under the governor in total get $6.63 million. Under this, the Governor's Office gets $1.1 million and the Lieutenant Governor's Office gets $780,000.

For departments under the Executive Branch, $1.42 million is budgeted for the Department of Commerce; $2.56 million, for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; $4.55 million for the Department of Corrections; $3.97 million for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; $4.83 million for the Department of Finance; $914,706 for the Department of Labor; $2.74 million for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources; $6.01 million for the Department of Public Safety; and $3.56 million for the Department of Public Works for a total of $37.21 million.

The First Senatorial District, or Rota, gets $7.41, $3.06 million of which goes to the Rota mayor's office.

The Second Senatorial District, or Tinian, gets $7.17 million, $3.6 million of which goes to the Mayor of Tinian.

The Third Senatorial District, or Saipan and the Northern Islands, gets $2.75 million, $2.1 million and $505,870 of which go to the Saipan and Northern Islands mayor, respectively.

Board and commissions get $1.78 million. These include the Civil Service, election commission, and other boards.

The bill also stated that $25.63 million are budgeted in total for the government's independent programs, which include the local library which gets $640,821, a Breadfruit Program that gets $170,600, and $2.877 million for the elected Attorney General's Office, among others.

DETF agents arrest suspected 'ice' trafficker

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested on Friday in Garapan an ex-convict who is allegedly active in selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

John Richard Palacios De Leon Guerrero, 40, also known as Massi, was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of trafficking of controlled substance and possession of controlled substance.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $100,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Thursday, Aug. 25, at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for De Leon Guerrero.

Citing defendant's prior convictions for burglary, theft, and illegal possession of controlled substance, assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda recommended the $100,000 cash bail.

DETF member Police Officer Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that last Tuesday, Aug. 16, a "confidential source" informed him that John Massi, later identified as De Leon Guerrero, has been selling "ice."

The "confidential source" claimed that a week ago he/she managed to buy $120 worth of "ice" from De Leon Guerrero.

Camacho said he also has personal knowledge that De Leon Guerrero was also involved in an ongoing DETF narcotics investigation.

Camacho said during a buy-operation, the "confidential source" managed to purchase .70 gross grams of "ice" worth $120 from De Leon Guerrero outside his residence in Lower Miha in Garapan Thursday at noon.

It was De Leon Guerrero's alleged drug associate who handed the "ice" to the "confidential source."

It's not clear yet as of yesterday whether the alleged drug associate was already arrested.

In May 2015, De Leon Guerrero pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and was slapped with a one-year prison term. In that case he reportedly engaged police officers in a car chase and threw a small bag containing "ice."

De Leon Guerrero's father, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Deleon Guerrero, is currently serving a six-year prison term at the Department of Corrections for sexually abusing a minor girl. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CEC wants to know if OAG can still represent them

The Commonwealth Election Commission is not sure whether the Office of the Attorney General will continue to serve as its legal counsel.

CEC board chair Frances M. Sablan in an interview said they believe that their legal counsel is still the OAG until Attorney General Edward Manibusan would tell them otherwise because they have not received black and white, telling them OAG no longer serve as CEC's legal counsel.

The legal counsel matter was among the issues discussed during CEC's board meeting last week. The lack of legal counsel at the board meeting prevented CEC commissioners from making a decision whether they have authority to appoint an executive director.

Julita A. Sablan has been serving as acting CEC executive director for over a year now. She has been working with CEC for 28 years now.

Asked about the legal counsel discussion, Sablan said there was a question back in 2014 when the AG's position was up for the ballot.

Traditionally, OAG has been CEC's legal representative.

Sablan said because of AG's position now being on the ballot there was a question that maybe the office can no longer be CEC's legal counsel.

The CEC board chair said they were actually seeking for any interested lawyers out there and that they have some, but they have not met since last December.

Sablan said they don't really need legal representation although they seek them whenever they have any legal questions.

"So that's the question now. We need to ask the AG's office whether was that a temporary decision? Or is that a permanent decision that we could no longer utilize them as our legal counsel?" she said.

The chair said CEC needs a lawyer to be with them.

Sablan said if OAG says they could no longer represent them, then CEC has to hire a lawyer.

She pointed out that getting a lawyer, however, is not in CEC's budget so they need to ask the governor for additional budget. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Wednesday, August 24, 2016**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Wednesday, August 24, 2016.** Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

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NMC grad Demapan earns full scholarship at UH-Hilo

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Carey Shiho Nishizuka Demapan left Saipan last week and is set to start the fall semester at University of Hawaii at Hilo. The Mt. Carmel School alumna earned a scholarship at the Western Association of Schools and Colleges-accredited co-educational university

Demapan is a Micronesia Challenge Young Champion and got a full ride to study a two-year marine science degree with an option on oceanography at UH-Hilo, one of three universities under the UH educational system.

"I'm interested in the field of marine science and have always been fascinated with the rich marine life that surrounds the islands," said Demapan, who finished a natural resources management degree at the Northern Marians College.

"I've worked on different conservation projects by joining various community events where we also visit schools," added the Excellence in Service award recipient and the second honor of this year's NMC graduating class last May.

Demapan said giving back to the community has been one of her goals in trying to keep the CNMI a better place to live in. "We must work together in the conservation of our land and other natural resources. Help preserve them so future generations could benefit from it."

The NMC Environmental Natural Resource Organization Club president had her internship at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. Her internship lasted from January 2015 to July 2016 under the guidance of Jihan Buniag and Avra Heller of the Coral Reef Initiative project.

JON PEREZ

Carey Shiho Nishizuka Demapan, second right, poses with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center before she left Saipan to attend University of Hawaii at Hilo early this month. Demapan will be studying marine science on a full scholarship grant. From left, Micronesia Trust board member and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, Micronesia Challenge steering committee and CNMI point of contact Fran Castro, and Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) are the others in the photo.

Buniag is CRI's Education and Outreach coordinator, while Heller is the Coral Reef Project coordinator of the Nonpoint Source and Marina Monitoring Team under manager Fran Castro at BECQ.

One of Demapan's duties as an intern at BECQ is promoting the Micronesia Challenge initiative of conserving 20-30 percent of near-shore marine terrestrial resources by 2020, which is four years from now.

Demapan, in her exit report, said what she achieved on her role of spreading awareness on the MC initiative and served as a role model to the youth of the CNMI. "My task to spread awareness of MC's initiative and purpose was done in over 28 events."

"These events were conducted at various locations such as schools, Laolao Bay, beaches, and other public areas. Many of the events lasted more than a day, but typically lasted no more than three days like the annual environmental expo," added Demapan.

The Whispering Palms School camp out, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Flame Tree Arts Festival, Tinian Agricultural Festival, and Tourism/Ocean Conservancy Summit are some of the events where she conducted presentations.

The Micronesia Challenge, Watershed, and Coral Reef posters, Managaha Flyer stand, marine resources booklet, and the CRI factsheet are the products and information materials that she helped create during her more than one-year internship at BECQ.

CUC board honors former director Concepcion

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board honored former director Chris Concepcion for his achievements and service when he was part of the group. Concepcion served as director for a year and a half before being appointed as the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The board passed a resolution commending Concecpcion, who was also the board's secretary, for trying to find ways to help solve the many issues that surround the utilities company.

"During his tenure as director and officer of CUC, Concepcion also served on the board's personnel committee during the period when the board adopted a comprehensive wage and salary program for the corporation," according to the board resolution.

JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chair Adelina Roberto, left, reads the certificate of recognition they gave former CUC board secretary Chris Concepcion in last week's board meeting at the CUC conference room.

Concepcion, according to the resolution, made a lot of sacrifices in his time as a director of the CUC board spending a lot of time away from his family and work as an officer of Delta Airlines on Saipan.

"The board of directors of CUC hereby expresses its gratitude for the many contributions he has made to the CUC. That this resolution be made part of the permanent record of the CUC board of directors," the resolution added.

Concepcion thanked the CUC board for recognizing his contributions. "It was a very challenging experience, the year and half that I served on the board."

"I really wish them the best. The board, the management team, and all the men and women that are working there. I just want them to continue their hard work to improve our utilities in the CNMI," added Concepcion.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC is proposing to renovate and utilize six (06) existing buildings for employee quarters with staff amenities. The applicant also proposes to fabricate and process building components in another existing warehouse. These uses are classified as "Institutional Residential" and "Manufacturing/Processing" respectively and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on Lot 030 B 21. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: August 30, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 29, 2016. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 30, 2016
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 8/11/2016 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2016-2665: Forson Holding (CNMI) LLC is proposing to renovate and utilize six (06) existing buildings for employee quarters with staff amenities. The applicant also proposes to fabricate and process building components in another existing warehouse. These uses are classified as "Institutional Residential" and "Manufacturing/Processing" respectively and are permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on Lot 030 B 21. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communications

D. Old Business

1. Zoning Board Decision on **Conditional Use Application #2016-1360 (Amendment):** Castle Project (CNMI), LLC has proposed to amend its Conditional Use Permit to renovate and utilize an additional existing warehouse structure (Building E) formerly used by Top Fashion Factory for employee quarters. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on lots 030 B 15, 030 B 13, and 030 B 18. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

E. New Business

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: August 23, 2016

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the "proposed rule for Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Treatment of U.S. Purse Seine Fishing with Respect to U.S. Territories", RIN 0648-BF41. As NMFS describes:

> "The rule under consideration relates to the treatment of U.S.-flagged purse seine vessels and their fishing activities in regulations implementing decisions of the Commission, particularly with respect to whether they are considered part of a purse seine fishery of a U.S. territory. … [E]xisting regulations would be revised as needed to recognize the territories' purse seine fisheries and treat them in accordance with relevant Commission decisions. … The main direct effect of the rule is that it would make the 2016 ELAPS limit less constraining on U.S.-flagged fishing vessels, collectively and individually, so it would effectively allow more fishing effort on the high seas in 2016 than without the rule. The rule also would create an incentive for purse seine vessels to offload their catches in the U.S. Participating Territories."

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. More information on the NMFS Proposed rule RIN 0648-BF41 and the federal consistency determination request can be found at DCRM's website: http://ow.ly/dpti303rM9R

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at erinderrington@becq.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on August 23, 2016 and ending on September 06, 2016 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

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WAS $19,899*
NOW $18,999*

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Gray, AT, AC, Stk. #U16-066R
WAS $19,899*
NOW $18,499*

2015 Toyota Corolla LE
Green, AT, AC, Stk. #U16-067R
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Gray, STK#U16-107T
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White, STK#U16-106L
$21,699*

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Dark Blue, STK#U16-081R
WAS $23,799*
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Black, Auto, 2WD, 4-cyl, STK #U16-091T
$25,699*

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White, STK#U16-083R
WAS $26,399*
NOW $24,999*

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Bronze, STK#U16-073R
WAS $26,799*
NOW $23,999*

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White, STK#U16-108L
$26,799*

2012 Toyota 4Runner
Gray, 2WD, SR5, 3rd Row, STK#U16-094T
$27,999*

2013 4Runner SR5 Sport
Black, Auto, 4WD, 6-cyl, STK #U16-092T
$28,699*

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2015 Toyota Highlander LE Sport
Silver, 2WD, 6-spd, STK #U16-078R
WAS $30,499*
NOW $27,999*

2015 Highlander LE Sport
Blue, Auto, 2WD, 6-Spd, Stk. #U16-077R
WAS $30,699*
NOW $28,499*

2015 Toyota Highlander
Blue, STK#U16-38R
WAS $31,999*
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$33,000*

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$33,199*

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Saipan Awaodori Team sends 3 members to Japan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Awaodori Team members Sheena Saures, left, and Zacarias Sakisat, middle, with the rest of the Japanese Awa Odori performers playing the snare drum and the kane bell, respectively at the annual Awa Odori Dance Festival in Koenji Tokyo, Japan.

Jaybriana Manalo performing the Awa Odori during the annual Awa Odori Dance Festival in Koenji Tokyo, Japan.

Zacarias Sakisat playing the kane bell at the annual Awa Odori Dance Festival in Koenji Tokyo, Japan.

Jaybriana Manalo posing for a picture with Japanese Awa Odori performers at the annual Awa Odori Dance Festival in Koenji Tokyo, Japan.

The Saipan Awaodori Team sent three members to Japan to join the East Asian country's annual Awa Odori Festival in Koenji, Tokyo. The local group has been dancing with a larger group since the first week of July and the members would be staying in Japan until Aug. 31, 2016.

The three members of the Saipan Awaodori Team are Zacarias Sakisat, Sheena Saura, and Jaybriana Manalo with roles of playing the kane bell, the snare drum, and the last being the sole dancer of the three.

Manalo is now back on Saipan due to the start of the school year at Saipan Southern High School. Saura is a student at the Northern Marianas College.

The next dance for the Awa Odori Festival in Japan would be from Aug. 26 to 28. The Saipan Awaodori Team would be dancing with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group.

The Awa Odori dance, when literally translated to English, means "fools dance." Awa means fool, while odori means dance. The annual Koenji Awa Odori Festival is the second largest Awa Dance Festival in Japan, only second to Tokushima Prefecture's Obon Festival. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 23,2000

House OKs bill vs. Domestic violence

Advocates for victims of domestic violence won a major victory yesterday after the House of Representatives cleared legislation aimed at stemming incidents of spousal abuse and family squabble on the islands. SB 12-34, otherwise known as Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act of 2000, is now awaiting signature of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio — a process that took advocates over four years to champion the rights of the victims. Members of the Family Violence Task Force burst into applause when the bill passed unanimously in the lower house, without further amendment that lawmakers attempted to insert at the last minute. They are now expected to lobby the governor for its immediate signing into law. Established in 1995, the group has led the battle to put in place tougher laws in the CNMI amid growing incidents of violence at homes.

Gov't. seeks funding to pay health providers

Local officials are racing against time to come up with the much needed amount to settle its unpaid account with two health providers im Hawaii amid threats that the latter will no longer accept patients referred by government's insurance group. The NMI Retirement Fund's health insurance owes Honolulu-based Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queen's Medical Center $2 million and $1.8 million, respectively, for the services they have rendered over the years. The two health providers have warned that they will refuse patients from the Northern Marianas unless the Fund's health insurance immediately pays its debt. But while the Fund is hoping to raise money to settle the account, the government's health insurance has detected some discrepancies in the billings provided by Straub.

August 23, 2004

'Let's regain control of prison facility'

Regaining control of the CNMI prison system is the driving force behind the government's creation of a new Department of Corrections, the administration said. In signing the bill creating the new department Friday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI "lost significant authority" to the U.S. Department of Justice under the provisions of a 1999 Consent Decree, which, among others, required the Commonwealth to develop a plan to address operating the detention and prison facilities as a system, to correct deficiencies, and to address future population growth. The order, issued by U.S. District Court judge Alex Munson, also required the CNMI to report to the DOJ on its implementation of those reforms in the prison system.

OPA performing fairly well

The Office of the Public Auditor is performing fairly well in subscribing to federal audit regulations, said Public Auditor Michael Sablan. "But there's still room for improvement. We're going to be more proactive," he said recently. It is toward this end that OPA has opened a three-day accounting and finance training for government employees last week, he said. Sablan said the training was initially intended for OPA staff only but his office decided to expand it to include other personnel from other government agencies. "OPA takes the initiative to provide government workers with basic accounting and financing skills," said Sablan.

August 23, 2005

'NMC training program needs US Labor accreditation'

To ensure an effective apprenticeship program at the Northern Marianas College, it has to be registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, said Rep. Justo S. Quitugua. In House Bill 14-367, Quitugua proposes that NMC must follow U.S. Labor regulations and ensure that its graduates are U.S.-certified skilled workers. He said that, while the college has an apprenticeship program, the current program "is not in the technical trade areas and is not registered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training." He said that employers in the Commonwealth have expressed their need for certified skilled workers.

A new view of healthy eating habits in NMI

A new Food Guide Pyramid will be replacing the Commonwealth's original food guide, updating the requirements for what it takes to have healthy dietary habits in the CNMI, according to the Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services Program for Family and Consumer Sciences. NMC-CREES FCS Programs and CRD program manager Margarita Diaz Tudela said the new USDA Food Guidance System was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion and will replace the original Food Guide Pyramid. She said the new guide is now called "MyPyramid," replacing the old guide that was developed and approved for educational presentations back in 1992.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Korean exchange students who are currently on island for English camp pose with Public Information and Protocol Office staff led by the governor's press secretary Ivan Blanco and communications specialist L.J. Castro.

Exchange students from Korea learn about public information and protocol

Press Secretary Ivan Blanco hosted a group of Korean exchange students who are currently on island for English camp. The camp features educational field trips as well as recreation around the island. The Office of Public Information and Protocol welcomed this very enthusiastic group of 27 students (between the ages of 8 and 14 year olds) and three chaperones for a quick visit at the Office of the Governor.

We were happy to learn that some of the students aspire to be future newscasters, reporters, and writers and had many questions about the profession. This educational visit focused on the role and impact of Public Information and Protocol on the CNMI community, and the various functions/responsibilities of its personnel.

One major duty of this office is to release official information pertaining to the Office of the Governor to the general public and the news media.

The Public Information and Protocol Officer is also known as the Governor's press secretary. As the official spokesperson for the Office of the Governor, Blanco communicates the policies, plans, and goals of the administration.

The Public Information and Protocol Office staff provides assistance to the public in obtaining information relating to the Executive Branch of government. The office houses an archive of Public Laws, Governor's Directives, Executive Orders, brochures, and other governmental publications. Another major duty of this office is to implement procedures for receiving foreign dignitaries and official business delegations in the CNMI. Also as a matter of protocol, this office is the point of contact at the Office of the Governor for proclamations and governor and lieutenant governor's messages to be published in newspapers, brochures, or magazines.

The Public Information and Protocol Office also helps answer questions the public may have relating to the CNMI Executive Branch. ***(PR)***

Babauta appreciative of UOG primary forum

With less than a week to go until the Primary Elections, Congressional candidate Tony Babauta is looking forward to Wednesday's Primary Forum hosted by the University of Guam.

With that, Babauta suggests the forum adjust its format by not providing all the questions to the candidates ahead of time in order to test their true knowledge of Congressional topics.

Babauta

"I am very appreciative that the University of Guam has organized a forum for candidates seeking Guam's Delegate Seat to the U.S. House of Representatives. Meeting voters on the campaign trail has been rewarding and educational for them and me, as I seek their support to be Guam's Voice in Congress," Babauta said. "It's clear to me that the electorate has been desiring to see Delegate candidates on the same stage, in whatever forum, to hear how we perform and what distinguishes us from each other. I've also discovered that as a candidate, I need to be prepared to answer many questions on multitude of issues in my effort to earn their vote and I'm sure that my competitor as well as the Republican candidates for delegate are experiencing the same."

Last week, Bordallo appeared on an afternoon radio talk show where she deferred to her chief of staff to explain, discuss, or update listeners on issues that has the our island and that she has been working on as our delegate over the past 14 years. "Since then, voters have asked me if I'm running against her or her chief of staff and who's voice is actually representing us in the U.S. Congress; Ms. Bordallo or her chief of staff?" Babauta added.

"If Hillary Clinton can charge that (Donald) Trump is unfit for the presidency for what he says, what and how are we to think about Ms. Bordallo as she defers to her staff to be our voice when we elected her? "I worked in Congress for more than a decade as professional staff to the Committee on Natural Resources. A lot of work goes toward preparing Members for briefings, hearings, and appearances but in all cases a Member of Congress needs to have a command of local issues to be able to effectively represent their constituency. Seniority alone doesn't guarantee success in Washington, D.C.; our delegate needs to also have substance."

The University of Guam has informed participants for their upcoming forum that questions will be provided a day before the event. Given the importance of this primary election for everyone seeking the delegate seat, Babauta has respectfully asked UOG to make known only half of the questions to candidates, thereby leaving the other half equally unknown.

"My request maintains fairness amongst all participants and more importantly will allow our audience to understand how each of us thinks on our feet," continued Babauta. "I have always applauded those individuals who make a decision to seek elected office. The Office of Delegate is one of the most important ones that Guam chooses because such individual is tasked with resolving longstanding issues, keeping current with what our island wrestles with today, and having a vision for tomorrow. Our delegate does all of this in a highly charged and demanding political environment." Guam's delegate doesn't always have the benefit of having staff support in meeting with other members, the administration, or foreign governments and our people should be assured that the voice we elect is the one that is speaking on our behalf.

The UOG Forum is slated for this Wednesday, August 24. For more information or to set up interviews with former assistant secretary Babauta, contact campaign chair Sonny Orsini at (671) 689-9424 or via email at babauta2016@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A medical pot win, for now

A federal appeals court gave medical marijuana advocates what seemed like a big win this week with a unanimous ruling that the federal government may not proas if they comply with state laws.

The decision affirms a mandate from Congress, which barred the U.S. Department of Justice in 2014 and 2015 from bringing cases against legitimate pot shops in states that have medical marijuana laws. It makes clear that if operators are meticulously following the rules, they shouldn't have to worry about the feds coming after them.

But this week's ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals came with a big warning: This is a temporary victory. Until the federal government legalizes marijuana or until lawmakers adopt a permanent policy shielding states from federal enforcement, medical marijuana shops still face the possibility of prosecution in the future.

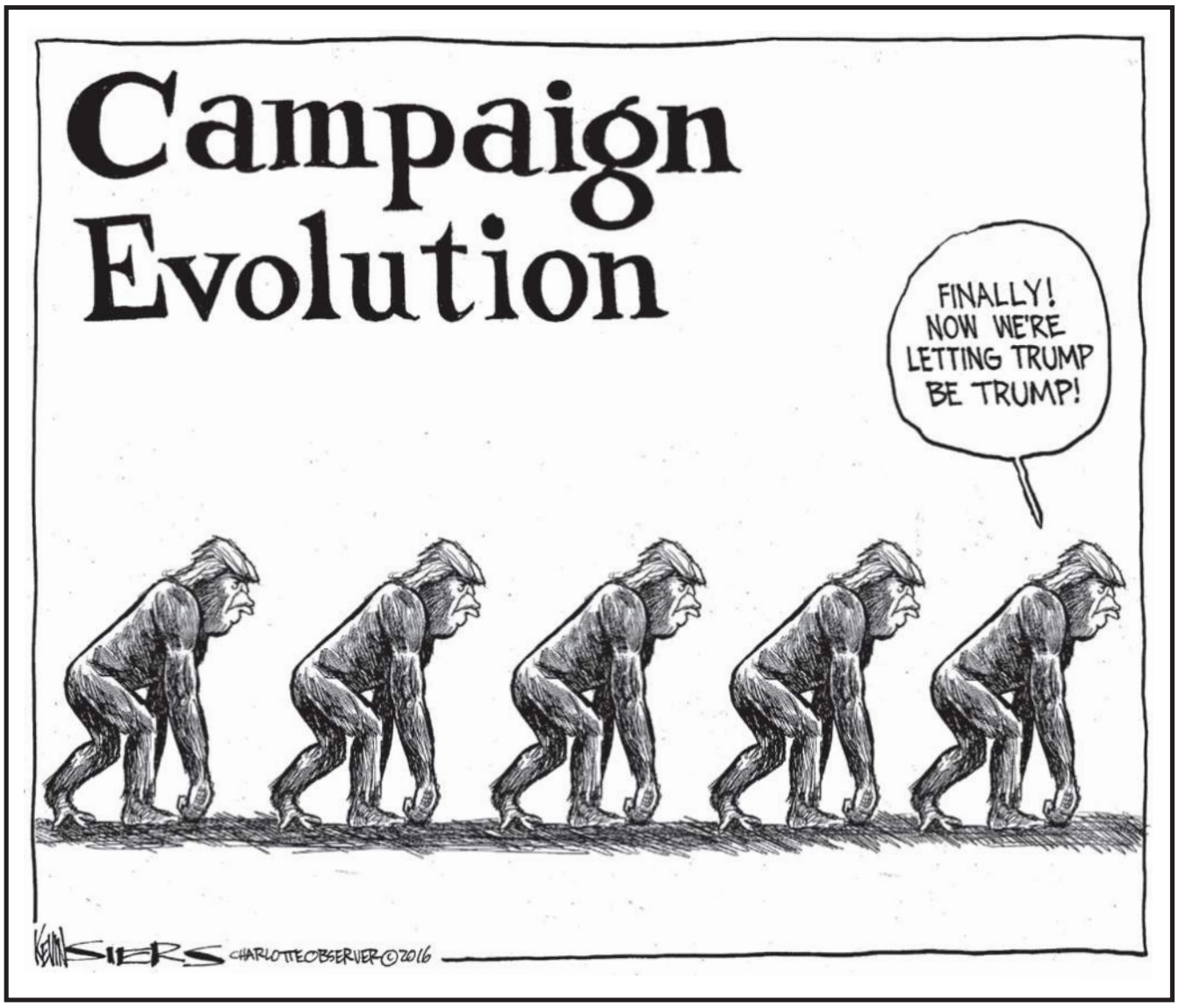
More than half the states allow people to grow, sell and use marijuana for medical purposes. But advocates complained they were still being raided and prosecuted by federal law enforcement because the drug remains illegal under federal law. In 2014 and again in 2015, Reps. Sam Farr (D-Calif.) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) successfully pushed through an amendment that prohibited the Department of Justice from spending funds in those budget years to prevent states from implementing their medical marijuana laws. (Their amendment does not apply to the recreational use of marijuana, which four states and the District of Columbia allow, and which California will consider allowing with Proposition 64 in November.)

However, federal prosecutions continued, and 10 growers and dispensary operators in California and Washington appealed their cases, arguing that they were protected by the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment. The 9th Circuit agreed — for the most part. The court sent the cases back to district courts, where the operators would have an opportunity to prove they "strictly complied" with state laws. If they did, they should not face charges. If not, they could still be prosecuted.

Advocates hailed the decision as a major setback for the federal government's tough-on-marijuana policies. But Judge Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain, writing in a lengthy footnote to the ruling, threw cold water on that idea.

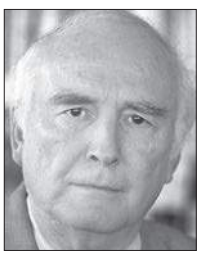
"To be clear," the judge wrote, the amendment "does not provide immunity from prosecution for federal marijuana offenses." Nor, he added, "does any state law 'legalize'" marijuana. All the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment does is temporarily block the Justice Department from spending money on medical marijuana prosecutions; it will expire in September, unless extended. Congress could restore funding tomorrow, or the next president could reverse the Obama administration's detente, and prosecutions could restart. That leaves medical marijuana businesses and users in legal limbo and undermines public confidence if people are asked to vote to legalize something that may not ultimately

See MEDICAL on Next Page



Trump continues to alienate

By DAN K. THOMASSON
Tribune News Service



Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service *and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at thomassondan@aol.com.*

WASHINGTON — It's clear now that Donald Trump intends to continue the in-your-face, loose-cannon, make-it-up-as-he-goes kind of campaigning that he believes brought him the Republican presidential nomination in the first place.

No Mr. nice guy he, just the hard -nosed practitioner of take no prisoners, nose thumbing, middle finger outrage that has propelled his drive to the White House since the beginning. How does one spell civility? He has no idea.

If you have any doubt it should have been dispelled by his latest campaign shake-up that included turning to far right "bomb throwers" (figuratively speaking) to take over for those who would shift his direction toward a more traditional approach that satisfies the GOP's establishment to one that suits him much better.

Leading the way will be one of the more irresponsible proponents of the firing squad, Stephen K. Bannon, once a Wall Street denizen turned Che Guevera, who runs something called Breibart News, a web site of vitriolic claptrap and absurd allegations in the nastiest fashion. He also worked to oust Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan from Congress in a recent Wisconsin primary. His Trump appointment further strains the relationship with Ryan.

According to The New York Times some of Bannon's posts include just the kind of nastiness Trump seems to thrive on. They include charges that President Obama is importing "more hating Muslims," and calling conservative commentator Bill Kristol a "renegade Jew." He compared Planned Parenthood's work to the Holocaust and urged females who complain of online harassment to "log off" and stop "screwing up the internet for men."

Way to go Banana (excuse me Bannon). That will drag a lot of women voters back from Hillary Clinton. But what the heck. The candidate himself already has sent women voters scurrying toward Hillary even those who profess not to like her.

Actually, none of this should come as a surprise. Slipping badly in the polls as the hybrid style of keeping his true believers happy and playing at accepting the moderating influence of mainline Republicans has seemed to fail badly, his response was to fall back on the stock and trade that confounded the primary pundits and turned the GOP on its ear.

If he is aware of the pitfalls of continuing to alienate more and more voters, including those among conservative and middle of the Republican ranks, he doesn't give much indication. His Cold War, McCarthy-like proposal to impose a stringent vetting process on even legal Muslim immigrants and others sent civil rights shivers through mainstream voters.

Bannon represents the farthest reaches of the Republican fringe and as it has been noted, his appointment comes shortly after Roger Ailes, a longtime conservative political adviser who just left Fox News under a cloud, took on an advisory role with Trump. That gives the GOP candidate an entree into the conservative media, which has been wary of him and links it to the far-right fringe. The question here is whether Trump's candidacy already has gone too far to be salvaged.

Reasonable, even detailed, substance of any kind has been a missing part of the picture from the beginning. We'll just build a wall and deport 11 million illegals and so forth without saying how any of these foolish ideas would become reality. He brushes off policy explanations like swiping the dandruff off his shoulders with a flick of the wrist and complete disdain for those who challenge him.

There is no doubt that some of Trump's popularity among the blue collar and disaffected voters can be traced to the fact he doesn't look like a politician and his anti-establishment rhetoric doesn't sound like one either. Those to whom he appeals the most express many of his same views. Whether Bannon and some of the other new hands he has signed can make a difference is anyone's guess. What isn't conjecture is Trump's own determination to remain fiercely anti-establishment.

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Lochte, at 32, still a dopey child

Dear Stupid, (and you know who you are, Ryan Lochte),

No. Wait. You don't know who you are. You don't know what a dope you are.

Because you're acting like a spoiled brat. At 32. Because you could swim well. Yeesh.

You haven't grown up because you haven't had to. Nobody has forced you to, and you haven't seemed much interested in it.

You need better parenting. You need a friend. You need some tough love.

Nobody who cares about you would've allowed you to send out that alleged apology for the international batch of drunken lies you foisted on Rio de Janeiro, the Olympic Games, the United States Olympic Committee, Matt Lauer, Billy Bush, your mom and your teammates. Some team guy you are, pal, ditching out like that and leaving your countrymen to wade through the manure.

Anybody who has heard you talk or watched your lame reality show knows you couldn't have written that apology yourself. You don't sound or act like someone who knows all those words and maybe not all the letters of the alphabet.

No ghostwritten or heavily lawyered statement. No notes. No cue cards. No nothing. Just you apologizing in your own words instead of that statement that was as fraudulent as the story you told — check that, the stories, plural, you told.

I would've made you watch your video apology and then sent it to the media. It's either from the heart or back in the toilet.

Then I would've had it transcribed and made you read those words. Then I would've sent that to the media, too.

By STEVE ROSENBLOOM
Chicago Tribune

Steve Rosenbloom is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may email him at srosenbloom@chicagotribune.com*

Verbatim transcripts usually make the speaker sound uneducated when it's right there in black and white.

The words would've looked and sounded bad. The words would've looked and sounded humiliating. The words would've looked and sounded embarrassing. And that would've been the point.

Either grow up or we make another reality show out of all your future apologies.

MEDICAL

From Page 10

be allowed under federal law.

The federal government should be providing clearer guidance to the states. Rohrabacher, for example, has a bill that would make his amendment permanent to prevent the federal government from prosecuting individuals or businesses for drug crimes if they are following state marijuana laws. Alternatively, several legal experts and advocates have suggested that the federal government could allow states to "opt out" of federal marijuana laws if they have their own laws and regulations for marijuana use.

One way or another, though, the conflict that between state and federal laws must be addressed. The current situation — in which marijuana is illegal at the federal level but half of the states allow medical marijuana, four states allow recreational use and five more will consider recreational legalization in November — is untenable.

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POEM

One week in the Trumposphere

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY

SUNDAY- chicken and Trump steak, BBQ with lawyers of the NRA
Talking about my pratfalls and pitfalls on a radio station in Niagara
MONDAY- huddling with a small group near the D.C. Beltway
Release of my first commercial as spokesperson for VotingViagra
TUESDAY- If this is Tuesday it must be Belgium I am insulting
A small country but it still has some Muslim immigrants to the U.S.
WEDNESDAY- Oops! My entire campaign is in danger of defaulting
RNC "cleaners" needed to clean up my "sarcastic" message mess
THURSDAY- family movie night, 1915 version of Birth of a Nation
A great American movie, I love those silent old blacks and whites
FRIDAY- bodega fish fry near the tower, assess my stock situation
Then I put on silk gloves for my new political Friday Night Fights
SATURDAY- flying to Scotland for a few rounds on my golf course
I wonder if I should insult the Republic of the Philippines any worse

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What have you accomplished?

Every two years here, we have an election. The regular gubernatorial election is every fours, assuming our governor is healthy and not ready to step down. The election for our Legislature is every two years, commonly called the midterm election. This year, then, is the mid-term election for some of our legislators. It's in November. And so we look back at the whole four years, to include the two-year newbies, and, we ask, what has the Legislature accomplished during their individual terms of office, that they want to run for office again?

I'll tell you what. One of the telltales is the mistakes they are making. I may not be a political science emeritus, but I understand enough of the legislative procedures to shake my head, and say mmm. That's not correct. I attended several training-seminar on legislative procedures conducted by the political science department of the University of Hawaii, headed by professor Dr. Meller. The university set up a program since way back when we were still under TTPI-Mariana Islands District Legislature. And I was not the only one in attendance. One of those in attendance was the late Manuel D. Muna. His photo is on one of the walls at Hale Manoa, East-West Center, back in 1970.

One big mistake was the attempt to amend one of former governor Fitial's executive order via bill. An executive order is simply an order by a chief executive to his or her subordinates to perform something departmental within the Executive Branch. The Legislature has no business intruding into the domain of the Executive Branch in order to manage the operation of the executive department, something not constitutionally assigned to the Legislative Branch. The principle of the separation of powers governs here.

Then I say another big mistake was the attempt to meddle in the gun control law of the U.S. government. That's U.S. Constitution Amendment 2. The U.S. Supreme Court has decided on cases under that amendment. Its decision cascades down to every court in the United States and territories. Federal court Judge Mona Manglona is correct in setting aside the action of the Legislature regarding the banning of guns. The Legislature cannot touch the gun issue. That's the domain of the U.S. government. So the Legislature came back and raised the gun fee to a $1,000 and approved by the OAG. I, for one, do not agree that the gun fee be raised to a $1,000 per gun. Who in this world would pay $1,000 fee for a carbine? That's tantamount to an impediment to owning a gun. I'm not saying assault rifle, 155 mm howitzer, 50 cal. And 30 cal. machine guns, a tank, bazooka, etc. The fee should be lower to a much reasonable amount so that a decent revenue is generated. Doesn't the Legislature want us to own a .22 short/long rifle or a "plinker" "para yangin man ehalum tano hit, pat man echiba hit?" Do the legislators really believe that we all have the "killer instinct" and go out and shoot somebody?

Does the police have records of battery or aggravated assault felons? That could be a guide when the person purchases a gun and takes it to the police for registration. So, prospective legislator, what do you have in mind to help our government get money so that it make improvements on our infrastructure, especially money for salary so we could pay CUC, CCHC, gas, food, clothing, and others.

Do you have anything in mind, other than to wait for the money from Best Sunshine? You know that we will be sharing the money from Best Sunshine casino with Tinian and Rota. Do you have any other plan to generate money for our government—the Northern Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota? Unfortunately, Dynasty has fallen, and the money which could be used for the Tinian infrastructure improvement is no more, and the *alcalde* has to look to the Tinian delegation for financial assistance, maybe for the time being. Rota also needs money. The casino there is not really making good money for the municipality. We are poor. We have to rush around the budget to try to retain money for our municipality, much less our CNMI government.

That's where you, as a candidate for this upcoming election must come up with an economic plan, miniscule though it would be, to help. A lot of people depend on your economic and financial planning. You don't have to be a CFO. But you should have a short-, medium-, and long-term economic survivability plan. You must also see if we could get back our immigration system from the U.S. You must make sure that every federal agency that comes here to use our land, etc., must pay. Look at our Covenant and our constitution and see what improvement you could make on them. Look at our 902. See what you could do. Remember that the U.S. wants only two things here, set up a defense posture against Asia, and to control us via foreign policy.

Get our immigration system back, and charge money for every federal agency that comes here to claim something. Stop the Pagan war exercise, and the takeover of Westfield without payment. Let's go to court on eminent domain reason. Negotiate for an increase in lease money on the next block of 50 or so years. Currently, there is no increase in lease money slated for the next lease year. We've been had. Negotiate for the return of our immigration system. Remember, we are no longer naïve nor congenial anymore. Make a demand. We should not live forever like this, being toyed around by the U.S. Do something for us. Come up with a feasible economic and financial plan. Tell me, my candidate, what do you hope to accomplish? And remember the CW and our business enterprises. Look for a good investor.

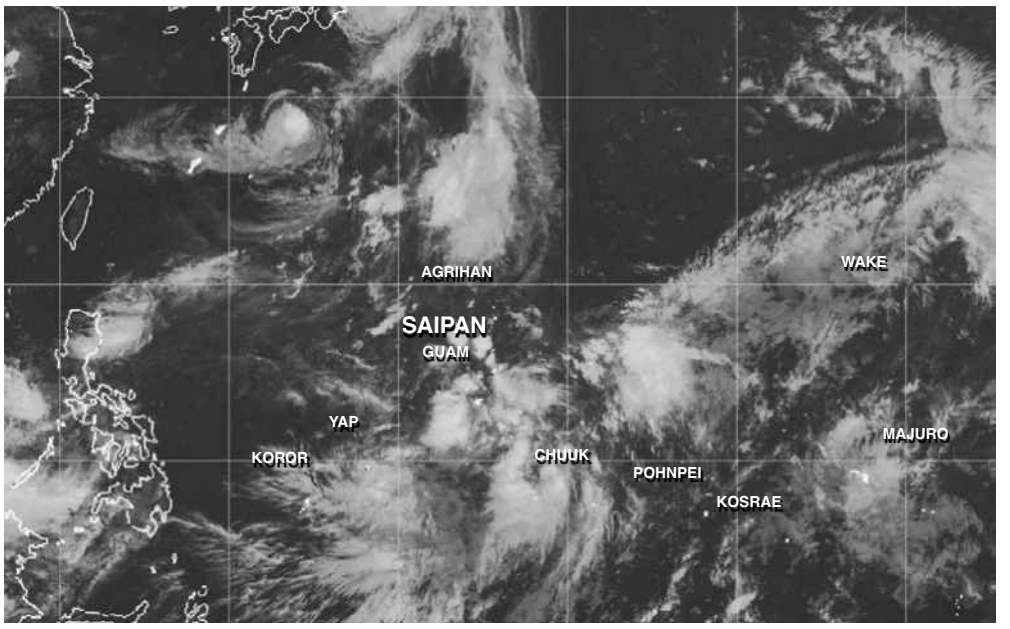
Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:53 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

All eyes in the Marianas are currently on the tropical disturbance near Chuuk. Both the ECMWF-HiRes and the GFS bring it through the Marianas on Tuesday, so scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are already in the forecast. For the time being they are underperforming but they should fill in as the disturbance continues to approach. The forecast problem will be the amount of wind associated with the disturbance. Right now the forecast has max winds of 18 knots, however the GFS and the ECMWF-HiRes have winds up to 24 and 25 knots respectively. While these are still well under gale or damaging levels, they are in excess of small craft advisory criteria. Correspondingly, the GlobalWave brings in 11 foot wave heights.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 86 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 86 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	78 / 83 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	79 / 85 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	81 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Cloudy	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Strong thunderstorms	82 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Heavy rain	48 / 56 °F
Beijing	Partly sunny	74 / 82 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	78 / 91 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	75 / 85 °F
London	Partly cloudy	58 / 83 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 81 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	79 / 86 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	41 / 54 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	80 / 90 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	64 / 81 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	77 / 94 °F
Paris	Sunny	62 / 87 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	66 / 88 °F
Salem	Sunny	52 / 84 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 66 °F
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	77 / 89 °F
Tokyo	Heavy rain	77 / 87 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	64 / 83 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
5:21 AM	LOW TIDE	0.32 Feet
11:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76 Feet
5:25 PM	LOW TIDE	0.5 Feet
11:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	10:30 PM	10:23 AM
Wednesday	11:20 PM	11:22 AM
Thursday	-	12:21 PM
Friday	12:13 AM	1:19 PM
Saturday	1:07 AM	2:17 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ESFDB starts 2016-2017 School Year

Public school kids hit the learning button last week, but for students at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, it's that time to roll out to school and hit the books to kick off school year 2016-2017.

With the new school year comes a new beginning and new expectations, but same identity at ESFDB.

School administrator and principal Carmen H. Atalig continues to help to develop ESFDB into a faithful, spiritual, and fruitful future.

Atalig continues to utilize her vast expertise in education to harness the power and influence parents to get them involve more deeply in the education of their children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students and 3rd-5th grade adviser Mary Rose Lucero, center, show their excitement during the opening of school.

"I hope the students enjoyed their summer. The teachers and staff had been preparing their classroom to welcome new and returning students. We're very excited and hopeful for the beginning of the school year," said Atalig.

Atalig added, "We take seriously and are grateful for the sacrifice of our parents and parishioners who invest in our Catholic schools. We continue to work diligently to seek new ways to ensure the Catholic identity, high academic standards, and future of ESFDB, as we address the mind, body and soul of the students entrusted to our care."

In addition, Atalig called for students to follow in the example of Jesus by being kind, forgiving, and peaceful to each other throughout the school year.

Assisting Atalig is a cadre of faithful, dedicated, and professional laywomen and men who are ready to tackle another exciting and challenging school year.

The Pre-School program is headed by Lea Maratita. She is also the school's Business Office manager.

Monette Ladao will serve as the class adviser for the Kindergarten class.

Florinda M. Chavez, adviser for the 1st and 2nd grade, is the most seasoned faculty in the ESFDB team.

Mary Rose Lucero, adviser for the 3rd and 5th grade, is another seasoned faculty.

Rounding out the ESFDB team is 6th to 8th grade adviser Edward Maratita Jr.

"The opening, once again, of the Catholic school (Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja) is a testament to the staying power of Catholic education. Here we are, 27 years later, and excited to begin another school year," said board chair Edward C. Maratita, Jr.

"As we begin the 27th year of the existence of ESFDB, we celebrate their continued academic excellence, which has been publicly recognized over the years in the national and local competitions, and by the support of parents and students who have chosen and benefited from Catholic education," added Maratita.

"We owe the success to Carmen Atalig for her efforts to lead ESDFB to academic excellence."

Maratita stated, "The school year 2016-2017 offers another challenges but, if the past 27 years have taught us anything, it's that we must continue to hold onto what is essential, and to be open to what we need to do."

The administration, faculty, staff, and students started school on Aug. 22 and their Holy Spirit Mass will kick off the new school year on Aug. 26 at 6:30pm at the San Francisco de Borja Church. The Mass will be officiated by newly installed Bishop Most Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez. ***(PR)***

Volunteers needed at American Memorial Park

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Park Superintendent Jim Richardson are inviting all Marianas residents to join the first "Day of Service" at the American Memorial Park on Saipan this Saturday, Aug. 27, from 7am to 11am. Volunteers will meet at the amphitheater, and split into teams to work on various projects in the memorial grounds, the Visitors Center, and the wetland areas of the park.

"It has now been more than one year since Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan. Some progress has been made toward recovery, but much work remains. American Memorial Park needs the help of our community," Sablan said. "I call on all residents who love this park to give a few hours of their time to make it a fitting memorial once again for the thousands of U.S. servicemen and Marianas civilians who lost their lives here in World War II."

» Day of Service on Saturday, Aug. 27

The National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary this week, and the Aug. 27 Day of Service will both commemorate that occasion and kick off a series of service days to clean up and beautify the park in time for Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Richardson said Park staff have been working hard to clean up the park over the past year, with the assistance of staff from the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Office of the Governor. A series of projects will also soon be completed by contracted businesses.

"We are seeking help from regular people who are willing to work as directed by work leaders and who care for their park," Richardson said. "All volunteers need to be officially signed up and youth under 18 years old must have signed approval on the official form by a parent or guardian."

So far, the congressional office and the Park Service have been working in cooperation with the American Red Cross – NMI Chapter, and the AmeriCorps Program of the Public School System to coordinate the Day of Service. Sablan expressed appreciation for the supportive response of these organizations.

"The members of the American Red Cross and AmeriCorps have been among the first to answer the call to serve," Sablan said. "And we hope that more will follow. We look forward to a great turnout this Saturday, and in all the upcoming service days between now and Veterans Day."

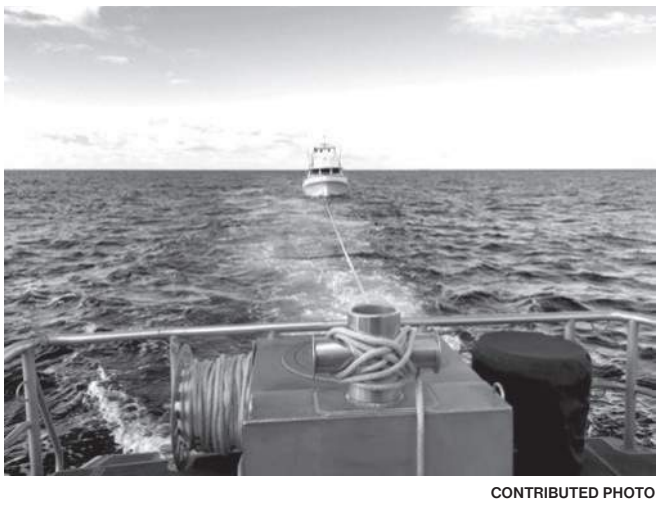
"The Red Cross is proud to mobilize our volunteers to help make improvements at American Memorial Park. The park honors all those who gave so much for our freedom. We owe it to them to ensure the park is always well maintained," said John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross.

"Every day, the American Red Cross provides 24/7 global emergency communication services and support to military services members and their families. Please join us as we make these important improvements to our park during this Day of Service," Hirsh urged.

"Community volunteers will make this a true day of service that recognizes the American Memorial Park as our community park," added AmeriCorps program coordinator Victoria Nicholas. "This is also an excellent opportunity for our high school students and clubs who are looking for community service volunteer hours to meet their graduation requirements while having a fun and productive day at the park. Let's go Marianas—let's get it done!"

To register online for the Day of Service on Aug. 27, visit https://americanmemorialparkdayofservice.eventbrite.com or contact the congressional office at Kilili@mail.house.gov or (670) 323-2647. Volunteers may also register in person at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center, or simply show up at the Amphitheater on Aug. 27, starting at 7am. Water, refreshments, gloves, rakes, hand tools, and other supplies will be provided. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard tows disabled vessel back to Port of Honolulu



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Coast Guard safely towed a disabled 46-foot commercial fishing vessel with three persons aboard back to the Port of Honolulu, Aug. 19, 2016. A 45-foot Response Boat-Medium boat crew from Coast Guard Station Honolulu relieved the USCGC Kittiwake in towing the vessel at the entrance of the Port of Honolulu and brought them back safely to the pier.

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard safely towed a disabled 46-foot commercial fishing vessel with three persons aboard back to the Port of Honolulu, Friday.

A 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew from Coast Guard Station Honolulu relieved the USCGC *Kittiwake* in towing the vessel at the entrance of the Port of Honolulu and brought them safely to the pier.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu command center received a report Wednesday from the crew of fishing vessel *Lily Kaileia* that they were disabled and adrift approximately 115 miles south of Honolulu Harbor.

Sector Honolulu launched the *Kittiwake* to tow the *Lily Kaileia* back to shore due to the fact that the vessel was drifting and there was no commercial or private vessel assistance available.

The *Kittiwake* is a Marine protector class patrol boat homeported in Honolulu. As one of Sector Honolulu's most versatile afloat assets, *Kittiwake* provides support to over 50,000 square miles around the waters of the Hawaiian Islands conducting law enforcement patrols, search and rescue missions as well as aiding in living marine resources and marine protected species missions. (***PR)***

BSI-CSR School Pride Project

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

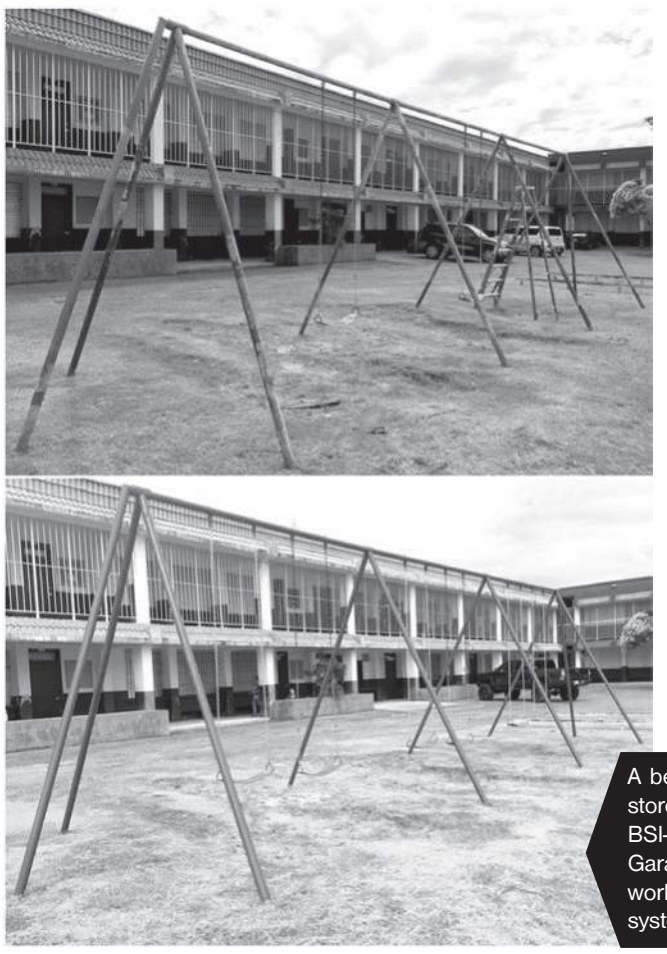
The Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility team assists Chacha Oceanview Middle School with landscaping overgrown grass.

Mowing and bush cutting overgrown grass at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School field.

Putting in double work to ensure that the grass-work at Hopwood Middle School is completed before the upcoming school year.

BSI-CSR manager Alex Palacios clears the hallways of Kagman High School through water blasting.

BSI CSR team poses after completing their work at Oleai Elementary School.

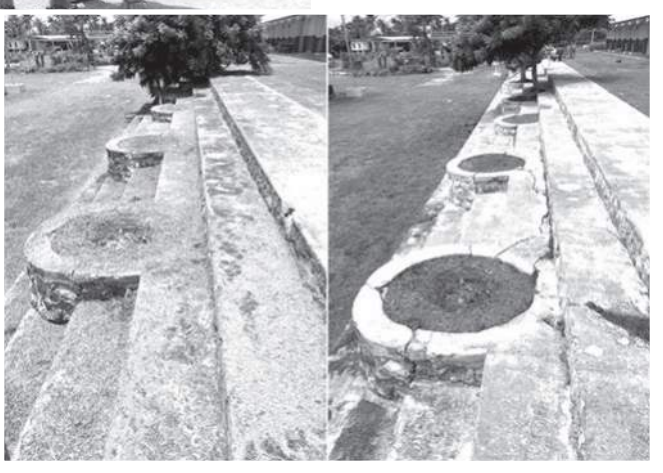


A before-and-after photo of the restored and repainted swing set that BSI-CSR team helped recover at Garapan Elementary School. The work provided for a safe playground system for kids to play.

Koblerville Elementary School principal Rizalina Liwag proudly stands alongside BSI-CSR staff after their completion of painting worn down curbs and parking stalls.

Tanapag Middle School principal Erica Thornburgh poses alongside BSI-CSR staff after the completion of the School Pride Project at her school.

BSI CSR representative Marvin Palacios rehabilitates a worn down *pala-pala* where students usually vacate while waiting for their ride after school at Tanapag Middle School.



A before-and-after shot of the bleachers facing the stage at San Vicente Elementary School.

Applying landscaping work at San Vicente Elementary School.

Business

Italy seeks to relaunch EU ideal with symbolic summit

ROME (AP)—Italian Premier Matteo Renzi has invited his German and French counterparts to pay their respects at the tomb of one of the founding fathers of European unity in a symbolic bid to relaunch the European project after Britain's clamorous decision to leave the EU.

The location for Monday's summit carries particular resonance as Europe confronts Islamic extremist violence, slow economic growth and continued anxiety over the implications of the Brexit vote. Italy has a lot to gain from a reinvigorated EU as it copes with flat GDP, the migrant crisis and political uncertainties over a constitutional referendum this fall on which Renzi has staked his government's survival.

The island of Ventotene off Naples, filled with sun-worshipping tourists in the waning days of summer, was where detained anti-fascist Altiero Spinelli in 1941 began co-writing the "Ventotene Manifesto," which called for a federation of European states to counter the nationalism that had led Europe to war.

The document is considered the inspiration of European federalism.

Renzi has called Ventotene the "cradle of Europe" and is keen to highlight its historic role as Italy seeks even greater integration, particularly on the security front to help it cope with waves of migrants, and flexibility from Brussels as it tries to rein in its record public debt.

"It seems strange, and in many ways it is, that from this tiny island the biggest political victory of the 20th century was borne: 70 years of peace between peoples who fought constantly and cyclically," Renzi said in January when he visited Ventotene and announced plans to restore its abandoned prison into a museum and European learning center.

AP
In this Wednesday, June 29, 2016 file photo, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi speaks during an EU summit in Brussels.

Monday's mini-summit will serve as a warmup for an EU-wide summit in Bratislava in September designed to chart the EU's post-Brexit way forward. It follows an initial three-way huddle by Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Holland in Berlin in the days immediately following the June 23 British referendum.

Charting a course is difficult until Britain formally begins the exit process, probably next year, and lays out proposals for its future relationship with the EU.

In Berlin, the three leaders pledged their commitment to European unity and plotted a common proposal to relaunch the European project focusing on three key areas: improving security, boosting economic growth and strengthening options and programs for young people.

The summit also gives Renzi a chance to hash out options as Italy copes with slow growth and other financial worries, especially at its banks which are struggling under some 360 billion euros ($408 billion) in bad loans.

According to recent Eurostat figures, growth was flat in Italy in the second quarter, compared with 0.4 percent growth in the EU. Unemployment was 11.6 percent in June, well above the EU average of 8.6 percent. Youth unemployment was even worse: 36.5 percent in Italy, exceeded in the EU only by Spain, and nearly twice as high as the EU average of 18.5 percent.

Renzi, however, has a bigger concern on the horizon, a gamble that he brought on himself and is worrying Europe as it could affect Italy's political stability and strengthen the euroskeptic, populist 5-Star Movement.

Renzi has called a referendum for this fall proposing a host of changes to the constitution, including reducing the power of the Senate and giving the central government control of some policy areas now in the hands of regions. Renzi has suggested he would resign if it fails, an outcome that Italy's business lobby Confindustria has warned would create "political chaos" and lead Italy back into recession.

Finding the courage to speak up

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: Being somewhat shy, I find it difficult to speak up during meetings. Simply asking a question makes me uncomfortable, so I never volunteer information or express an opinion. However, I'm concerned that my reluctance to participate will eventually limit my career options. I'm planning to sign up for Toastmasters, but do you have any other advice?

A: Barriers to participation can be external or internal. External obstacles might include highly critical colleagues or excessive talkers who dominate every discussion. To tackle those problems, the reluctant speaker must become less sensitive or more assertive or both.

Unfamiliar or intimidating surroundings can also inhibit conversation. New hires, for example, may participate sparingly until their environment becomes more comfortable. Similarly, people invited to higher-level meetings may initially be unsure about how they are expected to contribute.

But for a "somewhat shy" person, the hurdles are more likely to be internal. One common mental block is the fear of saying something stupid. For reticent folks, the prospect of sharing untested thoughts increases anxiety and reduces the desire to speak. Once the moment has passed, however, they often regret the missed opportunity.

To break this cycle, remember that your highly cautious nature greatly reduces the odds of your blurting out an inappropriate remark. Also, remind yourself that you are in these meetings for a reason. If you withhold useful information, you are shirking your responsibility to help the group succeed.

While changing your self-talk will be helpful, the only way to reduce your anxiety is to do the thing you fear. Therefore, joining Toastmasters is a wise move. At work, look for low-risk opportunities to participate and then begin making a few comments. After awhile, you may find that you actually enjoy being an active contributor.

Q: After being laid off from my previous job, I was recruited by a temp agency for a long-term assignment with a very good company. Unfortunately, I had to leave that position after only three months when an unexpected medical problem required complex surgery.

My recovery is now complete, but the temp agency won't return my calls. I assume they no longer want my services because they view me as a health risk. This makes me reluctant to include them on my resume. How should I explain all this during interviews?

A: First, remember that you have absolutely no obligation to discuss your medical history with interviewers. However, when they ask what you've been doing for the past few months, you must be prepared to give a brief, truthful response.

For example, you might say something like "After being laid off, I decided to delay my job search because I had some personal matters to attend to. I did take one temporary assignment, but now I'm looking forward to returning to work full-time." Then explain why you are interested in the available position.

As for your resume, there's no need to mention the agency. Since you only had one placement, simply list the company where you worked for three months. In reality, most employers will be much more interested in the rest of your work history.

Flooding in South puts a damper on US rice harvest

LONOKE, Ark. (AP)—Heavy rain that brought record flooding to Louisiana recently has put a damper on the nation's harvest of rice, a food staple that usually likes water as it grows but can't be gathered by machine if fields are inundated.

While rice is an aquatic plant, this is the time of year when farmers drain their land and roll in heavy equipment for the harvest. Some fields remain unreachable in parts of Arkansas and Louisiana.

"I've heard from a lot of the farmers the water level has been higher than a lot of the past hurricanes," said Dustin Harrell, a rice agronomist at the LSU Agriculture Research Center near Rayne, Louisiana. Two feet of rain fell in parts of the state.

The 2016 crop was expected to be 26 percent larger than 2015's, according to Eric Wailes, an agricultural economist at the University of Arkansas. Losing part of this year's crop shouldn't trigger price increases for rice used for food, or for cereal or beer that use rice as an ingredient, he said.

"Having a much larger crop swamps this event," Wailes said from his office in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "It's premature to make a strong assessment of what it all means."

If anything, he said, an 8 percent bump in rice futures prices over the past week would offset some losses if a farmer cannot move his entire crop to market.

"The biggest losers are the farmers who are actually inundated," Wailes said. "The crop that was harvested is now more valuable."

According to USA Rice, a trade organization, Louisiana farmers had harvested about 80 percent of their crop before the deluge, not including second-season growth along the Gulf Coast. Louisiana had about 450,000 acres of rice this year or 15 percent of the U.S. crop.

Arkansas farmers, who grow half the nation's rice crop on nearly 1.6 million acres, had completed about 2 percent of their harvest when unusual August rains arrived last week. For the month, rainfall is running about 350 percent of normal and the next few weeks are critical.

"We cannot drain, and the rivers are backing up into the fields," said Larry Jones, who farms 1,500 acres in rice and 1,500 acres in soybeans at Clover Bend, south of Walnut Ridge. He worries the rains will continue.

"The Black River is out of its banks. The river has to run down, then the creeks, and then our fields can run down," he said.

Gas prices up by half a cent to $2.17 a gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of gasoline in the U.S. is up by over half a cent to $2.17 a gallon for regular grade.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday higher crude oil prices are causing refiners and retailers to bump up their prices.

Still, the average price is 54 cents lower than a year ago.

The Lundberg Survey found the average price of midgrade unleaded is $2.46 a gallon, and the average price of premium is $2.67 a gallon.

The highest average price for regular gas in the contiguous U.S. is $2.67 a gallon in San Francisco. The lowest is $1.81 in Tucson, Arizona.

The U.S. average diesel price is $2.35 per gallon, up a quarter of a penny from two weeks ago.

Nation

Rural church among those providing aid after Louisiana flood

WALKER, La. (AP)—Outside the small town of Walker, Louisiana, a rural Baptist church has become an oasis for flood victims.

As waters rose amid torrential rains earlier this month, National Guard rescue crews dropped people off at South Walker Baptist Church because it sits on a ridge of relatively high ground in Livingston Parish near Baton Rouge. Even as flooding has receded in recent days, the church—like many other places across hard-hit south Louisiana—has continued providing sustenance for the body and soul.

It sheltered 96 people in the days after the storm, and Pastor Mark Carroll said the sanctuary is still a dormitory for more than 20 who lost their homes, including a man who had been living in his car until Saturday. It is also housing volunteers who have come to help people rebuild.

With a congregation of about 100 and with help from the community, the church is offering hot meals, running a pantry stocked by donations from around the U.S. and conducting prayer services. Carroll said the church had been planning a revival in about a month, but he believes the storm recovery is making that happen now as people build relationships with each other through God.

"It's been this entire community," Carroll said by phone Sunday. "We couldn't have done anything without everyone, and I mean just about everyone, pitching in."

Chuck Craft, a member of South Walker Baptist, said Sunday that he and his wife, Karen, lost their home about a mile from the church but they've been able to salvage some irreplaceable items such as photos of their four children and 16 grandchildren. He said everyone in their family is safe, and that's the most important thing.

"My story is no different than anybody's down the road," Craft said Sunday. "Everybody's life is out on the curb to be picked up by garbage."

The Baton Rouge area got thunderstorms with at least 2 to 3 inches of rain Sunday, said the National Weather Service, which posted a flash flood warning for part of the day.

AP

Pastor Mark Carroll, right, listens to the prayers of Valerie St. Romain, 35, during church services at South Walker Baptist Church in Walker, La., Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said Sunday that people around the U.S. are just starting to pay attention to the extent of flooding that killed at least 13 people in Louisiana. He told CNN's "State of the Nation" that the disaster has received less attention because it wasn't a hurricane or named storm.

"Typically, by this point in a storm, I think Red Cross would be receiving a lot more donations," Edwards said. "I think there would be more volunteers signing up. Although we have some of that in place now, it would be very helpful if people would donate to the Red Cross, to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and also to come in and volunteer to help people get back in their homes as quickly as possible."

Edwards, a Democrat who took office this year, said he suggested to President Barack Obama and presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett that they delay a trip to Louisiana until the initial disaster response was over and recovery efforts had started. Obama is traveling to Baton Rouge on Tuesday.

Edwards also praised Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's Friday trip to Baton Rouge, saying "it helped to shine a spotlight on Louisiana and on the dire situation that we have here."

Officials are setting up a temporary bus system to help people in and around Baton Rouge whose vehicles were damaged by flooding. The bus service, provided by a private company, will run from downtown Baton Rouge to the towns of Gonzales, Walker, Denham Springs, Central and Geismar. The contract is for one week, but services could be extended if there's a need, state Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn D. Wilson said in a news release.

Mike Steele, spokesman for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, said Sunday that two disaster recovery centers also have opened in areas that flooded in south Louisiana. He says more will open as buildings are found with enough parking and proper access for people with disabilities.

Steele said more than $30 million in federal housing assistance has been approved for residents in the state. About 3,200 people remained in shelters.

Craft, 57, said the home where he and his wife have lived more than three decades is elevated nearly three feet, but it still had about five feet of water standing inside for the better part of a week. Because of the damage, he said they'll start over, as will many others affected by the flood. For now, the Crafts are staying with relatives and trying to keep a sense of humor.

"We're like cockroaches down here," Craft said with a laugh. "You can't kill us."

Southern California wildfire evacuees allowed to return home

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Five days after an explosive wildfire in Southern California drove thousands from their homes, authorities lifted all evacuation orders on Sunday to allow them to return.

About 82,000 people were ordered to leave their properties Tuesday when the fire broke out 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

Most of those residents are returning to find their homes intact, though not all. A preliminary damage assessment found 105 homes and 216 outbuildings destroyed across the rural, mountainous terrain where large swaths of open land have been turned black.

"This fire did not go through a dense community, like some fires do," fire spokesman Costa Dillon said Sunday. "Almost all of this area is sparsely populated."

The once-fast moving and erratic blaze that burned nearly 58 square miles was 85 percent contained. Firefighters were going property-to-property in the areas most heavily hit to quell any lingering flames and hot spots.

"You don't want somebody to come back to a neighborhood where a fire could suddenly flare up on the property next door from something still smoldering," Dillon said.

Fire officials briefed residents at an evacuation center Sunday morning at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds where about 15 residents remained.

Johanna Santore, 63, her husband and their 10-year-old granddaughter were among those who learned Sunday they are still not being permitted to return home.

The family's home and nearly all their belongings were destroyed in the blaze.

Santore said the family was "holding up," but that Saturday evening when everyone was asleep she'd gone outside and cried thinking of the family's lost pets and mementoes. The Santores were out running an errand when the fire broke out and were unable to return to save anything.

Four dogs, six cats and a hamster left behind are missing.

"I'm hoping someone is stuck around hiding someplace," Santore said. "And if I start calling, they might recognize our voices."

In the meantime she has begun looking into how to replace birth certificates, their housing deed and other important documents they are unlikely to recover.

A prolonged drought has transformed swaths of California into tinderboxes, ready to ignite. Six other wildfires were burning in the state, including one in San Luis Obispo County that forced the closure of the historic Hearst Castle on Saturday. It remained closed Sunday.

When schools are threatened, untold learning time is lost

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The prosecutor calls it "bomb week," his shorthand for eight school threats—many written in school bathrooms or on notes—over a few days in May that set off evacuations and investigations, parental panic, and the rumor mill of students linked by cellphones and social media in his Ohio county.

Track athletes missed an end-of-season competition, and some high schoolers started carrying their car keys with them instead of leaving them in lockers, just in case, Warren County prosecutor David Fornshell said. One mother complained that a girl who uses an insulin pump had taken it off for gym class and had to evacuate without it.

"Nobody who sends their kids to school should have to go through that kind of stress and that type of disruption," Fornshell said.

Such violent or disruptive threats are increasing nationwide, according to police, school employees, security consultants and others, blamed sometimes on local students and sometimes on outsiders seeking to cause disruptions or a big emergency response.

State and local agencies don't track the threats, meaning there's no formal accounting of the collective costs. The disruptions typically aren't long enough to merit makeup classes, but the learning time lost to evacuations and cancellations adds up, as do the hours police spend responding and investigating.

Less measurable but still significant are the ways threats can dent staff and students' sense of security even when they're false alarms, as they almost always are.

"Schools are in a really bad position," said researcher Amy Klinger, of the nonprofit Educator's School Safety Network. "People are going to be mad if you evacuate; people are going to be upset if you don't evacuate."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police probe whether speed was factor in crash that killed 5

MANORVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—Police are investigating whether speed was a factor in a multi-vehicle crash on a major Long Island roadway that killed five people including a former aide to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Suffolk County police said the crash happened Sunday morning on the Long Island Expressway, near Manorville. Among those killed was Scott Martella, 29, of Northport, a communications director for Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and a former aide to Cuomo. "Scott dedicated his all too brief life to public service and to helping others," Bellone said in a statement. "He is known across Long Island as a leader and a great man."

1 man killed, Louisiana trooper wounded in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A man was killed and a Louisiana State Police trooper was shot in the arm Sunday during an auto theft investigation in New Orleans. New Orleans Superintendent of Police Michael Harrison said during a news conference Sunday that state troopers attempted a traffic stop in the 7th Ward at about 3:30 p.m. of a vehicle that was believed to be reported stolen. Three suspects emerged from the vehicle and one began firing at the troopers, striking one in the elbow, Harrison said. The suspects then ran from the scene, hiding on nearby blocks in the area. Within minutes, New Orleans and Louisiana State police officers arrived on the scene and began to search for the suspects. When authorities located one of the suspects, he began to fire at police who returned fire, striking the suspect, Harrison said. He died at the scene. Details were not immediately available about the man who was killed.

Asia

DESPITE N. KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT

S. Korea, US start military drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States began annual military drills Monday despite North Korea's threat of nuclear strikes in response to the exercises that it calls an invasion rehearsal.

Such fiery rhetoric by Pyongyang is not unusual. But the latest warning comes at a time of more tension following the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat and a U.S. plan to place a high-tech defense missile system in South Korea.

The North's military said in a statement Monday that it will turn Seoul and Washington into "a heap of ashes through a Korean-style preemptive nuclear strike" if they show any signs of aggression toward the North's territory.

The North's "first-strike" units are read to mount retaliatory attacks on South Korean and U.S. forces involved in the drills, according to the statement, carried by Pyongyang's state media.

South Korea's Unification Ministry expressed "strong" regret over the North's warning, saying the drills with the U.S. are defensive in nature. Seoul and Washington have repeatedly said they have no intentions of invading Pyongyang.

This year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills that began Monday for a 12-day run are largely computer-simulated war games. The training involves 25,000 American troops and 50,000 South Korean soldiers, according to the U.S. and South Korean militaries.

The drills come just days after Seoul announced that Thae Yong Ho, No. 2 at the North's embassy in London, had recently defected to South Korea because he was disillusioned with the North's leadership.

China stages live-firing drills in Tonkin Gulf amid tensions

BEIJING (AP)—China's coast guard launched live-firing exercises in the Tonkin Gulf on Monday, the latest in a series of military drills that come amid renewed tensions among disputants to territory in the South China Sea.

The Maritime Safety Administration said ships and boats were barred from the area between its southern island province of Hainan and the northern coast of Vietnam from Monday to Wednesday.

China's navy and air force have held a series of drills in surrounding waters since an international arbitration panel issued a ruling last month invalidating China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. China angrily rejected the ruling and said it would begin flying regular air patrols over the strategic waterway while continuing to develop airstrips, harbors and other infrastructure of military value on man-made islands it controls in the disputed Spratly group.

On Sunday, China said its planes and ships held war games in the Sea of Japan last week, during which it deployed its latest-generation frigate.

Beijing didn't say who the latest military drills were targeting or why the Sea of Japan was chosen as the location. However, China has grown increasingly assertive over its claim to a chain of uninhabited islands controlled by Japan, recently dispatching more than a dozen coast guard vessels to the area as Chinese fishing vessels swarmed the surrounding waters.

China also plans joint naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea next month in a move criticized by the U.S. as harming regional stability.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Doctors attend to Singapore PM after he feels faint

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore's prime minister had to be attended to by doctors Sunday after he felt faint while delivering a speech to the nation during a National Day rally. About an hour later, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was helped back onto the stage and resumed his speech, to loud applause from the audience. Lee, 64, "was feeling unsteady because of prolonged standing, heat and dehydration," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. "His heart is fine and he did not have a stroke," it added. Lee has spoken each year at the annual National Day rally since taking office in August 2004. The event is seen as an opportunity for leaders to outline plans for the wealthy island nation of 5.5 million.

3 Filipino sympathizers of IS killed in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine forces have killed three suspected sympathizers of the Islamic State group but failed to capture their leader in a clash in the country's south, an army official said Sunday. Troops seized two rifles and an IS-style black flag of the slain militants, who belonged to a small armed group called the Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines, following Saturday's clash near Maasim town in Sarangani province, said army Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia. A militant was captured by the troops prior to the fighting near Maasim, Valencia said. Military officials said the militants, led by their leader, Mohammad Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, were spotted in a hinterland by villagers, who notified the troops.

Typhoon Mindulle disrupts flights and trains in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A typhoon sweeping through Tokyo and surrounding areas has forced the cancellation of more than 400 domestic flights in Japan and disrupted train service. Typhoon Mindulle made landfall south of Tokyo on Monday afternoon with sustained winds of 126 kilometers (78 miles) per hour and gusts to 180 kph (112 mph). It is forecast to move north over the Tohoku region and reach Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Tuesday. Japanese television showed damage to a handful of buildings in the region. One had much of its roof blown off, and some second-story wall tiles had fallen off another.

Indian army kills 3 rebels in Kashmir fighting

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—The Indian army says its soldiers have killed three suspected rebels near the heavily militarized line of control that divides disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Army spokesman Col. Nitin N. Joshi says the soldiers engaged the militants after tracking them in Tangdhar sector on Sunday. The rebels have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the subsequent Indian military crackdown. Meanwhile, a security lockdown and protest strikes continued for the 44th straight day Sunday, with tens of thousands of Indian armed police and paramilitary soldiers patrolling the tense region. The killing of a popular rebel commander on July 8 sparked some of Kashmir's largest protests against Indian rule in recent years.

World

Iraq executes 36 men convicted in Islamic State massacre

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq on Sunday executed 36 men convicted of taking part in the Islamic State group's massacre of hundreds of soldiers in 2014, officials said.

The men were hanged at the Nasiriyah prison in southern Iraq, according to provincial Gov. Yahya al-Nasiri. A Justice Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters, confirmed the executions.

IS captured an estimated 1,700 soldiers after seizing Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in 2014. The soldiers were trying to flee from nearby Camp Speicher, a former U.S. base just outside the northern city. Shortly after taking Tikrit, IS posted graphic images of gunmen shooting the men dead after forcing them to lie face-down in a shallow ditch.

The Speicher massacre sparked outrage across Iraq and partially fueled the mobilization of Shiite militias in the fight against IS, a Sunni extremist group. The militias now rival the power of Iraq's conventional armed forces.

AP

In this April 3, 2015 file photo, an Iraqi man prays for his slain relative, at the site of a mass grave, believed to contain the bodies of Iraqi soldiers killed by Islamic State group militants when they overran Camp Speicher military base, in Tikrit, Iraq, 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

Iraqi forces arrested dozens of men allegedly linked to the massacre after retaking Tikrit in 2015 with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes. The men executed on Sunday were sentenced to death by an Iraqi court earlier this year.

The head of the provincial council in Salahuddin province, of which Tikrit is the capital, criticized the judicial process, saying some of the men executed Sunday had been tortured to extract confessions.

Some of them "were not even present at the scene of the crime," Ahmed al-Karim told The Associated Press. "We support the death penalty for those who committed crimes," but "the use of violence and torture (in Iraqi prisons) should be investigated."

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has attempted to fast-track the implementation of death sentences following a series of large-scale bombings in and around Baghdad in recent months.

Somalia bombings kill 17 at local government HQ, market

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the gates of a local government headquarters in Somalia while another bomber targeted a nearby marketplace, killing at least 17 people and wounding more than 30 others, police said Sunday.

Abdisalam Yusuf with the police said one bomber rammed the car into a checkpoint in Galkayo town Sunday morning after reaching the main gate of Puntland's local government. Puntland, a semi-autonomous state in northern Somalia, controls the northern part of the town, while the southern part is controlled by rival regional state Galmudug.

Somali Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke condemned the twin blasts, saying that "evil-doers" had targeted innocent civilians.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab group claimed responsibility for the attack. The town, unlike other parts of the country where al-Shabab continues a deadly guerrilla campaign, rarely sees such attacks.

The town's main hospital received more than 15 wounded people, including some with horrific wounds, a nurse, Abdikareem Ali, told The Associated Press.

"Some of them were burnt beyond recognition. It was a dark day," he said.

Some of the bodies were discovered in nearby houses destroyed by the blasts, said Col. Muse Hassan, a senior police officer.

Palestinian rocket strikes Israel, drawing Israeli reprisal

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli military carried out a series of airstrikes in the Gaza Strip late Sunday, targeting Hamas positions in response to a Palestinian rocket attack that hit an Israeli border town earlier in the day.

Palestinian Health Ministry official Ashraf al-Qidra said two Palestinians, including a 17-year-old boy, were lightly wounded.

Palestinian officials said nearly all of the airstrikes took place in northern Gaza, near the Israeli border. While most of the attacks targeted Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza, one struck a military camp used by the smaller Islamic Jihad group.

Lt. Col Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman, said the operation was meant "to bring quiet to the people of southern Israel." He accused Hamas of trying to "inflict pain, cause fear and to terrorize" Israelis in the middle of the summer vacation period.

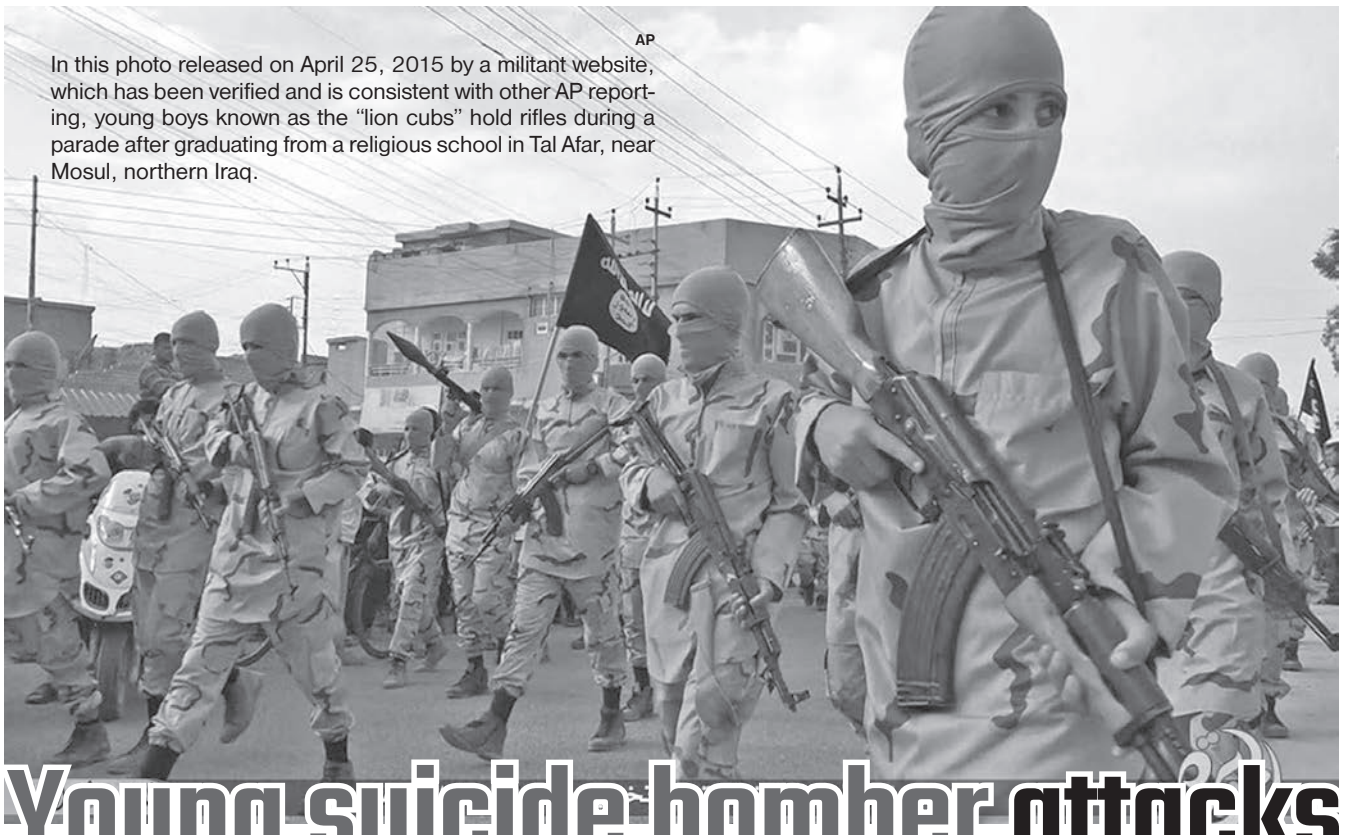
Sunday's rocket attack struck the Israeli border town of Sderot in the middle of the day and disrupted what has been a quiet summer in the volatile area. The rocket landed in a residential area, exploding next to a house. There were no injuries.

Israel responded quickly with airstrikes and tank fire, and then carried out a second round of airstrikes shortly before midnight.

Israel and Hamas fought a 50-day war in the summer of 2014. Since then, a cease-fire has largely held. But militants in Gaza occasionally launch rockets toward Israel. Israel holds Hamas responsible for all attacks emanating from the territory. Despite Sunday's flareup, neither side appears to be interested in an escalation.

Focus

CINAR KIPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this photo released on April 25, 2015 by a militant website, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, young boys known as the "lion cubs" hold rifles during a parade after graduating from a religious school in Tal Afar, near Mosul, northern Iraq.

Young suicide bomber attacks Turkish wedding party; 51 die

ISTANBUL (AP)—A child suicide bomber killed at least 51 people and wounded nearly 70 others at a Kurdish wedding party near Turkey's border with Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday, decrying the attack as an apparent attempt by Islamic State extremists to destabilize the nation by exploiting ethnic and religious tensions.

"As of now, the preliminary conclusions by our governor's office and the police establishment point to an attack by Daesh," Erdogan said, using another common term for IS.

"It was clear that Daesh had such an organization in Gaziantep or was attempting to make room for itself in recent times," he said.

The bombing late Saturday in Gaziantep was the deadliest attack in Turkey this year.

It comes amid ongoing struggles between the government and Kurdish militants linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as the PKK, and as the country is still reeling from the aftermath of last month's failed coup attempt, which the government has blamed on U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen and his followers.

Erdogan said immediately after the Gaziantep attack, which he blamed on IS, that any strategy "meant to incite the citizens against each other along ethnic and religious lines will not work."

Later, addressing the nation before Istanbul's city hall, Erdogan said the attacker in Gaziantep was aged between 12 and 14. He said 69 people were wounded, with 17 of them in critical condition.

He again blamed the attack on the Islamic State, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The pro-Kurdish political party HDP condemned the attack on the wedding, which it said was attended by many of its party members.

It said in a statement that it was "quite significant" that the attack, which it also blamed on IS, came hours after the Kurdistan Communities Union, a militant organization that includes the PKK, announced plans to try to negotiate to end a three-decade conflict between Kurdish militants and the Turkish government.

"This attack targets those determined and persistent in peace, resolution, and those struggling for democracy, equality, freedom and justice," the HDP said. "The attack was planned to disable the spread of peace and success of possible negotiations."

A bus driver who shuttled some of the guests from Siirt to Gaziantep said that he couldn't believe the party was targeted.

"This was a wedding party. Just a regular wedding party," Hamdullah Ceyhan told the state-run Anadolu Agency. "This attack was deplorable. How did they do such a thing?"

The bride and groom weren't in life-threatening condition and were undergoing treatment, but the groom's sister and uncle were among the dead, Anadolu reported.

Multiple opposition parties denounced the attack, as did many foreign governments including the U.S., Germany, Austria, Russia, Egypt, Sweden, Greece, France, Bahrain, Qatar and Jordan and global institutions including the United Nations, the European Union and NATO.

"We stand by our ally Turkey and pledge to continue to work closely together to defeat the common threat of terrorism," said U.S. Ambassador to Turkey John Bass.

In the Vatican, Pope Francis led hundreds of people in silent prayer for the victims of the attack, concluding by asking "for the gift of peace for everyone."

Security expert Metin Gurcan, a former Turkish military officer and columnist for the online newspaper Al-Monitor, said that IS view the attack as "hitting two birds with one stone" — as retaliation for Syrian Kurdish advances on their forces in Syria, and for Turkey's attacks on IS targets.

Gurcan said in an email to The Associated Press that IS has been trying to agitate or exploit ethnic and religious tensions in Turkey, and "we know very well to what extent wedding attacks can sow disorder in nation's social fabric from the Afghanistan experience."

The suicide bombing follows a June attack on Istanbul's main airport where IS suspects killed 44 people. A dual suicide bombing blamed on IS at a peace rally in Turkey's capital, Ankara, in October killed 103 people.

Meantime, there have also been ongoing attacks claimed by the PKK or linked to the militant group, as well as the coup attempt blamed on Gulen's movement. Gulen has denied any involvement.

Earlier this week, a string of bombings blamed on the PKK that targeted police and soldiers killed at least a dozen people. A fragile, 2½ year peace process between the PKK and the government collapsed last year, leading to a resumption of the three-decade-long conflict.

In the immediate aftermath of the Gaziantep bombing, Erdogan said there was "absolutely no difference" between IS, Kurdish rebels and Gulen's movement, calling them terrorist groups.

Gurcan said, however, that it was a "grave mistake" to lump the three together.

"Putting these three organizations with different political objectives, tactics and techniques into the same basket ... causes the failure of tailoring specific counter strategies," he said.

Following the attack, police sealed off the site of the explosion and forensic teams moved in. Outside the perimeter, hundreds of residents gathered chanting "Allah is great" as well as slogans denouncing attacks.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek and the country's health minister traveled to the scene, visiting the wounded and inspecting the site.

"This is a massacre of unprecedented cruelty and barbarism," Simsek told reporters. "We ... are united against all terror organizations. They will not yield."

In Istanbul, HDP supporters organized a rally attended by hundreds Sunday evening to protest the bombing. One participant, shop owner Ercan Yilmaz, 36, told the AP it was "always those kinds of people being targeted—a Kurdish wedding party, opposition groups or people calling for peace in Ankara," referring to the peace rally attacked in October.

"On the other hand, the AKP (Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party) has gatherings and rallies everywhere but they're never bombed," he added.

Child bomber in Turkey not the only violent use of children

BEIRUT (AP)—The suicide attacker who detonated his explosives amid an outdoor Kurdish wedding party in southeastern Turkey, killing at least 51 people, was an Islamic State group child as young as 12 years old. The extremist group has a history of using children as weapons, sending them to their death strapped with explosives and putting them on front lines in Iraq and Syria.

The group maintains an army of child soldiers, which it calls "cubs of the caliphate," and seeks to re-educate children at IS-run schools, indoctrinating them with their own radical version of Islam and exposing them to violent acts including beheadings as part of a concerted effort to build a new generation of militants. IS videos have shown boys killing IS opponents through beheadings and shootings.

But the practice is not restricted to the Islamic State group and has been used by other militant groups. Here's a look at some:

ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

The group has deployed child suicide bombers to stage attacks in both Iraq and Syria. Among the most deadly attacks was a bombing at a youth soccer game at a stadium south of Baghdad on March 25, 2016. A bomber—believed be a teenager—detonated his explosives as officials were handing out trophies to players after the tournament, killing 29 and wounding 60. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility and released a photo of the attacker where he appears to be no more than 16 years old. Nearly half of those killed were also children, participating in the soccer game or cheering from the stands. The U.N.'s children's agency, UNICEF, said in a recent report that thousands of children have been abducted in Iraq. Girls, the group says, are at greatest risk of being sold into sexual slavery while boys are often forced into becoming combatants or suicide bombers.

BOKO HARAMHuman Rights groups and UNICEF report a dramatic increase in Boko Haram's use of children as suicide bombers. In a report earlier this year, UNICEF said one in five suicide attacks claimed by the militant group across Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad are now carried out by children. In Nigeria, Human Rights Watch said that since Boko Haram began its attacks in 2009 it has recruited hundred, and possibly thousands, of youngsters and used dozens, mostly girls, as suicide bombers.

AL-QAIDA

The global terrorist network has a history of recruiting children and training them to be suicide bombers.

The leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, used teenagers as suicide bombers to fight the American occupation in Iraq before he was killed in a U.S. airstrike in 2006. Al-Qaida in Iraq eventually developed into the modern day Islamic State group.

RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other militant groups run summer camps that seek to indoctrinate Palestinian children with violent anti-Israel ideologies. These groups have not sent young children on suicide missions, though during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s, several Palestinians as young as 16 carried out suicide bombings.

During a current wave of violence, dozens of Palestinian teenagers have carried out or been accused of carrying out stabbing attacks on Israelis, with the youngest perpetrator just 11 years old. The attackers are believed to have acted individually and were not sent by organized groups.

YEMEN

In Yemen, home to one of the world's most heavily armed civilian populations, boys often learn how to handle weapons from an early age. In the country's current conflict, irregular forces from both the pro-government and rebel sides have incorporated teenagers into their ranks.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

The Toyota Highlander Hybrid: New classic Americal cruiser

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Given America's intense love affair with crossover utility vehicles, or CUVs if you will, there's an inescapable conclusion once you drive the 2016 Toyota Highlander Hybrid and it's this: Toyota has created the consummate American car.

Like the classic American cruiser, the Highlander Hybrid offers generous space for up to seven passengers with wide, soft comfortable seats that welcome Americans' ever-expanding waistlines. There are multiple automatic climate controls, as well as heated and cooled seats to keep everyone content. The cabin is quiet, with little engine, road or wind noise to drown out conversation or your favorite Michael Buble track.

And while other crossovers fulfill many of the same requirements, they don't do it with quiet, confident serenity that makes driving this CUV very much the equivalent of a spa escape with four wheels.

That sense of comfort is confirmed once you press the power button. Not that you'll notice the power coming on; that's because nothing much happens as the electric motor comes on, but not the gas engine. That comes on once underway. That's thanks to the Hybrid Synergy Drive system pairs a 3.5-liter V6 gasoline engine with an electric drive motor-generator that generates 280 horsepower while returning an EPA-estimated 27 mpg city/28 mpg highway. My own lead-footed driving returned 25.6 mpg.

Other powertrain choices include a 185-horsepower 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine teamed with a six-speed automatic transmission on LE front-wheel drive models, and a 270-horsepower 3.5-liter V6 and six-speed automatic transmission on all other models. The four-cylinder returns 20 mpg city, 25 mpg highway, while the V6 returns 18 mpg city, 24 mpg highway. Given its meager power, the four-cylinder is best avoided as the V6 provides the power required of a people and cargo hauler.

All-wheel drive is available with the V6 and Hybrid models, and operates like many such systems. Under most circumstances, the system operates in front-wheel drive. When slippage is detected, as much as 50 percent of the vehicle's power can be sent to the rear wheels.

While the test model was a 2016, the upcoming 2017 Highlander receives revised exterior styling, an improved 3.5-liter direct-injection V6, eight-speed automatic transmission and a new sporty SE trim level. A stop/start system is a new option, and a new safety package will be standard.

TNS
All-wheel drive is available with the Toyota Highlander V6 and Hybrid models.

TNS
The 2016 Toyota Highlander Hybrid's cabin is quiet, with little engine, road or wind noise.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: $43,500-$52,500
- Engine: 3.5-liter V6 and an electric drive motor
- Horsepower: 280
- Fuel type: Regular
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 27/28
- Wheelbase: 109.8 inches
- Length: 191.1 inches
- Cargo capacity: 13.8-83.2 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 4,861 pounds
- NHTSA rating: 5 stars

The hybrid driveline is so smooth and unobtrusive you'll never notice when the Highlander switches from one power source to another. When revved, the gas engine emits a distant murmur as the electric motors kick in to add assist. There's enough power for the everyday cut and thrust of commuting, but like a classic American car, the Highlander rewards you most when you handle it smoothly and gradually.

Like any American cruiser, there's sufficient power, lightweight power steering with somewhat vague on-center feel. The compliant suspension does an amazing job of soaking up the worst our crumbling infrastructure can dish out. But there are noticeable body motions over bumps and body lean through corners. However, the Highlander Hybrid proves to be more capable than you'd expect, carrying it out with a no muss, no fuss attitude. But the car doesn't reward you as you push it harder. There's no visceral incentive transmitted to the driver. Instead, you'll find its soothing personality and surprising abilities put you at ease, soothing out the bumpy commute of life.

And once inside the cabin, you'll find it's the model of a modern, American transporter with a large screen in the center of instrument panel to carry out any information, navigation and entertainment chores. Its design washes out too easily in bright sunlight however, and the controls on the right side of the screen are a far reach for the driver.

But there's a thoughtful shelf that can hold small electronic devices with small cord pass through to reach the USB ports below. The cupholders are huge, and the center console is commodious enough to hold a laptop or one of those saddlebags that now pass for women's purses.

The deep, wide seats prove comfortably soft yet supportive, even after hours of driving. The driving position is fine, but taller drivers will find the throttle if jammed up against the center console, which has hard plastic sides that make long distance driving painful as your knee rests on it. A bit of padding would be most welcome.

But these are nitpicks in a vehicle with a welcoming docile personality that makes driving as comfortable as an old pair of bedroom slippers.

The Highlander Hybrid's biggest surprise is no surprise. Its quiet competence doesn't make headlines. Instead, it's a mobile refuge, a transportable deep tissue massage that insulates, isolates and pampers. That's what the finest American cars do; offer a slice of comfort and convenience in an uncomfortable, inconvenient world.

And that's what most Americans prefer.

David W. Lochabay
1940-2016

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

The family of David Winston Lochabay, age 75 of Saipan, will receive friends in a visitation service from 6:00PM to 8:00PM on Wednesday, August 24, at the chapel in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road. A private family burial service will follow on Thursday, August 25.

Mr. Lochabay passed away on Sunday, August 21, 2016. He is survived by his daughter, Caroline Leigh, and brother, Averill (Harry) Lochabay. He was preceded in death by his parents, the late John Sydney and Wilma Lochabay.

Mr. Lochabay worked as an attorney since graduating from law school at the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. In the final portion of his legal career, he worked tirelessly as an Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In total, Mr. Lochabay served the Commonwealth for seventeen years. He was known throughout the CNMI legal community as an honest, compassionate, and dedicated public servant.

Late in life, Mr. Lochabay became a passionate tennis player and athlete. He could often be found at the American Memorial Park tennis courts or on the Park's walking path. He loved tennis, playing rain or shine and through injuries.

Classical music occupied a dear place in Mr. Lochabay's life. Described as a child prodigy musician, he played the violin with the Corpus Christi Symphony in his youth. He taught himself to play the piano, favoring pieces by Bach and Beethoven.

Above all, Mr. Lochabay was devoted father. His daughter, Caroline Leigh, followed his lead to the University of Texas at Austin and is now also a lawyer. Mr. Lochabay taught her everything that she knows, often simply by his example.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to KPRG (Public Radio Guam) or to the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

Life & Style

‘Hillbilly Elegy’ author offers insight on Trump’s appeal

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio (AP)—For pundits and politicos baffled by the appeal of a wealthy New York businessman to the struggling white working class in Appalachia and Rust Belt mill towns, J.D. Vance’s book “Hillbilly Elegy” is offering some insights.

It’s a vivid, deeply personal tour of the stark world he grew up in, set mainly in this southwestern Ohio city hit hard by the decline of its dominant steelmaking company, but also in his familial eastern Kentucky hills region. They are places where, for many, the American Dream long ago faded into despair.

Vance has a colorful family: Mamaw (grandmother) douses the sleeping Papaw with gasoline and drops a lit match to punish his carousing (he escaped with minor burns), and his mother’s own problems with spreading substance abuse lead her to Rollerblade through a hospital emergency room and to badger him into providing a urine sample for her drug test. He learns early to fight to defend family honor, while coping with a chaotic home life.

AP

This March 13, 2008, shows AK Steel’s Middletown Works plant in Middletown, Ohio. Author J.D. Vance’s book “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” provides a vivid tour of the stark world he grew up in, set mainly in the southwestern Ohio city of Middletown hit hard by the decline of its dominant steelmaking company, but also in his familial eastern Kentucky hills region.

With his tough Mamaw’s support, he went on to serve in the Marines, including in Iraq, and to success at Ohio State University, at Yale Law School, and in a Silicon Valley investment firm.

Subtitled “A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis,” his book quickly hit best-seller lists while attracting the attention of national TV talk shows and columnists. Vance discussed it in a telephone interview:

Some excerpts:

ON SUPPORTERS OF DONALD TRUMP

“He communicates in a way that is very relatable to a lot of people; it’s one of the things that both parties frankly have been increasingly bad at, which is connecting to voters in an emotional and kind of visceral way, and I think Trump does that. ...

“And he is tapping into a substantive concern that people have ... the sense America’s best days are behind it and the future doesn’t hold a whole lot of promise.”

ON WRITING A MEMOIR AT AGE 31

“I was very bugged by this question of why there weren’t more kids like me at places like Yale ... why isn’t there more upward mobility in the United States?

“I felt that if I wrote a very forthright, and sometimes painful, book, that it would open people’s eyes to the very real matrix of these problems. If I wrote a more abstract or esoteric essay ... then not as many people would pay attention to it because they would assume I was just another academic spouting off, and not someone who’s looked at these problems in a very personal way.”

ON NEIGHBORS SHIRKING WORK, MANIPULATING WELFARE SYSTEM

“I think it ... creates very ambivalent feelings about government policies to begin with; that’s a big reason, frankly, that there’s been this political shift in these areas to the Republican Party. ...

“You know people that are really down on their luck, who really need this help, but then you also see other people who seem to be gaming the system in one way or another, and it makes you feel a little bit resentful of the people who you feel like aren’t really trying ... I think that’s one reason why people are a little bit mistrustful of their neighbors and maybe why these communities aren’t quite as strong as they used to be.”

‘Ben-Hur’ crashes, ‘Suicide Squad’ stays on top for 3rd week

NEW YORK (AP)—A big-budget remake of “Ben-Hur” was trampled under a herd of holdovers and new releases at the box office, the latest casualty in a bruising summer for Hollywood.

The Paramount Pictures release, which cost about $100 million to make, debuted with just $11.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That makes it one of the season’s more pricy flops, albeit one that never had anything like the ambition of 1959’s Charlton Heston epic.

Instead, Warner Bros.’s much-maligned DC Comics supervillain team-up film “Suicide Squad” held the top spot for the third straight week with an estimated $20.7 million over its third weekend. It has now made $262.3 million domestically (fourth best for the summer) despite steep declines and poor reaction from critics and fans alike.

Seth Rogen’s foul-mouthed food animated comedy “Sausage Party” continued to do well for Sony Pictures. In its second weekend, it took in $15.3 million, good enough for second place, and bringing its two-week total to $65.3 million.

Two offbeat debuts slid in behind “Suicide Squad” and “Sausage Party”: the Iraq War comedy “War Dogs,” with Miles Teller and Jonah Hill; and the stop-motion animated “Kubo and the Two Strings” from Focus Features and Laika Entertainment.

“War Dogs,” the first movie after “The Hangover” trilogy for director Todd Phillips, was lambasted by critics, but it sold a decent $14.3 million in ticket sales.

“Kubo and the Two Strings,” an acclaimed fantasy about a boy in ancient Japan, debuted with $12.6 million, the weakest opening of any film from Laika, the Oregon-based animation studio behind “Coraline,” ParaNorman” and “The Boxtrolls.” ‘’Kubo and the Two Strings” was fashioned as Laika’s most ambitious film yet, with the company’s chief executive, Travis Knight, making his directorial debut.

But after the fifth place opening of “Ben-Hur,” the second coming of the sword-and-sandal movie appears to be attracting dwindling flocks of moviegoers.

A coproduction between MGM and Paramount, “Ben-Hur” is the third adaption of Lee Wallace’s novel, “Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ.” With producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey (“The Bible” miniseries), the film courted Christian moviegoers. But it was unable to turn them out as successfully as Paramount did for “Noah” (which debuted with $43.7 million in 2014) or even Fox’s less popular “Exodus: Gods and Kings” (a $24.1 million opening in 2014).

Still, fueled by “Suicide Squad” and “Sausage Party,” the box office was up more than 22 percent over the same weekend last year, according to comScore. Despite the ups and downs of individual films, the box office overall is enjoying a potentially record August—usually a sleepy month of summer stragglers.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Suicide Squad,”** $20.7 million ($38 million international).
2. **“Sausage Party,”** $15.3 million ($2.1 million international).
3. **“War Dogs,”** $14.3 million ($6.5 million international).
4. **“Kubo and the Two Strings,”** $12.6 million ($900,000 international).
5. **“Ben-Hur,”** $11.4 million ($10.7 million international).
6. **“Pete’s Dragon,”** $11.3 million ($5.7 million international).
7. **“Bad Moms,”** $8.1 million ($3.9 million international).
8. **“Jason Bourne,”** $8 million ($10.7 million international).
9. **“The Secret Life of Pets,”** $5.8 million ($45 million international).
10. **“Florence Foster Jenkins,”** $4.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **“The Secret Life of Pets,”** $45 million.
2. **“Suicide Squad,”** $38 million.
3. **“Line Walker,”** $16.5 million.
4. **“Jason Bourne,”** $11.3 million.
5. **“Star Trek Beyond,”** $11.3 million.
6. **“Ben-Hur,”** $10.7 million.
7. **“Tunnel,”** $9.6 million.
8. **“Ghostbusters,”** $7.9 million.
9. **“Big Head Son and Small Head Dad 2,”** $7.5 million.
10. **“Lights Out,”** $7.3 million.

Natalie Portman tells ‘A Tale of Love and Darkness’

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—”It’s like, I guess you caught me! I’m a nerd!” Natalie Portman says, laughing.

She’s talking about frenzied internet responses to a recent interview that she did with author Jonathan Safran Foer. The New York Times Style Magazine asked Foer to interview Portman about her directorial debut, “A Tale of Love and Darkness .” They weren’t in the same city, and thus did the interview over email, which the magazine then coyly presented as actual emails between the two friends.

The internet was confused. Onlookers smirked at the literary and occasionally pretentious words and thoughts exchanged between the two as though they’d stumbled on something private and deeply embarrassing.

“It was clearly for an interview,” Portman said. “I can understand that it would seem funny if those were our normal ‘hey Jonathan, what’s going on’ emails, which is not the case at all ... It’s not what we write on a Tuesday afternoon. Obviously.”

Portman, seated on a couch in the sun soaked living room of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel’s Royal Suite, tries not to pay attention to all of that. She knew it had become a thing when friends told her about it, but she’s not concerned. For one, it did what it was supposed to do: get some attention for “A Tale of Love and Darkness.” And the only semi-real discovery she can think of is that, well, she’s a “nerd.”

This shouldn’t be a surprise to anyone even remotely familiar with Portman, who gracefully transitioned from precocious child star into Oscar-winning adulthood, while still prioritizing intellectual pursuits and maintaining a healthy remove from the celebrity of it all.

Official: Pills found at Prince's estate contained fentanyl

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Some of the pills taken from Prince's estate in Paisley Park after his death were counterfeit drugs that actually contained fentanyl—a synthetic opioid 50 times more powerful than heroin, an official close to the investigation said Sunday.

The official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation, said nearly two dozen pills found in one Aleve bottle were falsely labeled as "Watson 385." According to Drugs.com, that stamp is used to identify pills containing a mix of acetaminophen and hydrocodone, but the official said at least one of the pills tested positive for fentanyl.

Autopsy results released in June show Prince died April 21 of an accidental fentanyl overdose. The official who spoke to the AP said records show the 57-year-old Prince had no prescription for any controlled substances in the state of Minnesota in the 12 months before he died.

AP

In this May 19, 2013 file photo, Prince performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Authorities are still investigating how Prince obtained the drugs.

Fentanyl has been responsible for a surge in overdose deaths in some parts of the country. When made into counterfeit pills, users don't always know they're taking fentanyl, increasing the risk of fatal overdose.

The Star Tribune first reported about the mislabeled pills in a story published on its website late Saturday.

Some of the dozens of pills seized from Paisley Park were found to have other drugs in them, some were oxycodone or codeine, and some were not controlled substances.

About a dozen tablets were found in a dressing room at Paisley Park, but the vast majority was in bottles of aspirin and Vitamin C that had been tucked inside a suitcase and bags - including one Prince often carried with him. Some pills were also found loose in the bag, the official said.

One pill with the "Watson 385" stamp tested positive for fentanyl, lidocaine and another drug. Officials found nearly two dozen pills similar to the one that was tested, the official said.

Another aspirin bottle had more than 60 counterfeit tablets in it.

Some pills that were analyzed contained fentanyl, lidocaine and U-4770 - a synthetic drug that is eight times more powerful than morphine.

Authorities also found a prescription bottle in someone else's name that contained 10 oxycodone pills, the official said, without revealing who was listed on the prescription.

The official said Prince had many of these pills with him on April 15 when the airplane he was on made an emergency stop in Moline, Illinois, after he fell ill from a suspected drug overdose as he was heading home from a performance in Atlanta. Prince was given two doses of Narcan, an antidote used to reverse suspected opioid overdoses, the official said.

'American Idol' to receive TV academy's Governors Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" is receiving the TV academy's 2016 Governors Award for its impact on television.

The academy said Friday that the Fox singing contest was more than a hit, citing its use of social media, influence on the pop-culture conversation—and the talent-show imitators it spawned.

The Governors Award honors achievement that goes beyond the scope of Emmy Award recognition.

"American Idol," which ended its 15-year run on Fox this spring, was a ratings blockbuster but never captured top Emmy honors in the reality-competition program category.

It isn't up for the award at the Sept. 18 Emmys airing on ABC, but host Ryan Seacrest has a final chance to be honored as best reality series host.

Canadians bid adieu to beloved band whose singer is dying

KINGSTON, Ontario (AP)—The rock concert did not begin with a rock song. Instead, it started with flag-waving fans breaking into a national anthem, "O Canada."

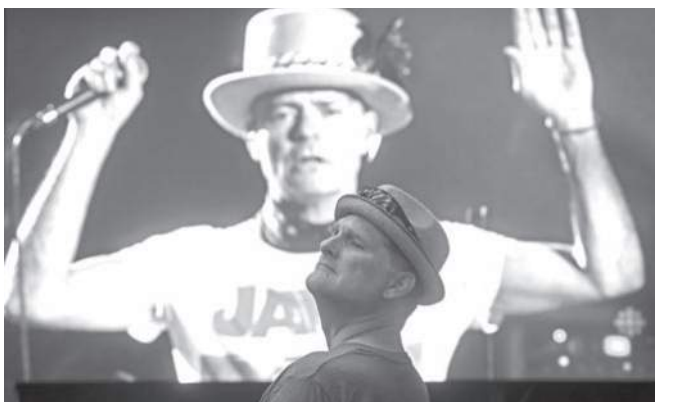
The impromptu tribute by an emotional sold-out crowd that included Prime Minister Justin Trudeau began what was expected to be the final performance Saturday by Tragically Hip, a group known as Canada's Band, and lead singer and songwriter Gord Downie, dubbed Canada's unofficial poet laureate.

Downie has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, and fans across Canada and abroad gathered at viewing parties to tune in and bid him farewell.

The bluesy rock band is better known as The Hip, and Downie is known for penning paeans to Canadian life: about hockey and desolate small towns, about literature and the French explorer who named Canada. Being so defiantly Canadian might be one reason why The Hip sent nine of its 13 albums to No. 1 in Canada, but none above the top 100 in the U.S.

After spending three decades together, The Hip returned on Saturday night to where they began as a college rock band, the Lake Ontario city of Kingston. Those who couldn't get into the Rogers K-Rock Centre massed nearby to watch on a giant screen.

While the band was careful not to declare that its now-concluded 15-show "Man Machine Poem" tour would be its last, the concert had an aura that was both celebratory and somber.



AP

Lead singer Gord Downie is seen performing on a screen as a man watches during a viewing party for the final stop in Kingston, Ontario, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Saturday Aug. 20, 2016.

Despite being diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most aggressive cancerous brain tumor, an energetic Downie was in fine form as he and his bandmates played an epic 30-song set, punctuated by three encores.

Worried son foresees trouble in parents' all-day drinking

DEAR ABBY: I have been concerned about my parents for some time now. They are elderly and live in a retirement community. They have a very nice home and don't have to worry about money.

The problem is, they drink every day—sometimes from noon to when they go to bed. Many times, their drinking has caused arguments and police visits. When I express my concern about their drinking, they tell me to stay out of it, mind my own business, and they're retired and have earned the right to do whatever they want.

Abby, I don't mind them having cocktails every now and then, but this has gotten out of hand. I think they have become alcoholics and only bad things are coming of it. They refuse to listen to me, or anybody else, for that matter. What should I do?

WORRIED WILLIAM IN NEW YORK

DEAR WILLIAM: As people age, their bodies are sometimes less able to metabolize alcohol than they were when they were younger. When things get out of hand to the extent that the police are being called, I agree something must be done. Because there is this level of disruption going on, it follows that the neighbors in that very nice retirement community must be less than thrilled.

That your parents drink is only part of the problem. Elderly people can suffer from balance problems even when they are sober. It is common for someone who is inebriated to fall, which could cause your mom or dad to suffer serious injury.

If other family members are also worried about your folks, an intervention might be in order. Before attempting one, attend some Alanon meetings so you can listen to others' similar experiences and learn how they were handled. Visit www.al-anon.alateen.org, or call 1-888-4-ALANON to find a meeting near you.

DEAR ABBY: I went out to dinner with a close friend last night. During the hour we were at the restaurant, she made and received no less than 11 cellphone calls. These were entire conversations, not unanswered rings or a quick, "I'm busy now. Call you later."

If there had been extenuating circumstances, maybe I wouldn't feel so offended. But the chats were with a co-worker, someone from church, her boyfriend, her daughter, etc. This friend does "live" on her phone, but this was excessive even for her.

I thought it was ridiculous, and next time I may be "too busy" to meet her for dinner. Should I say something or just avoid or limit meals with her in the future?

PUT ON HOLD IN TEXAS

DEAR PUT ON HOLD: Tell your friend that you were very hurt by her lack of consideration at dinner because you had looked forward to spending some time with her -- not listening secondhand to her 11 conversations. Her behavior that night was thoughtless and rude, and she owes you an apology.

DEAR ABBY: Should stepchildren and their offspring be recorded in your family Bible?

KEEPER OF THE FAMILY BIBLE

DEAR KEEPER: Yes, if they are considered members of the family.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

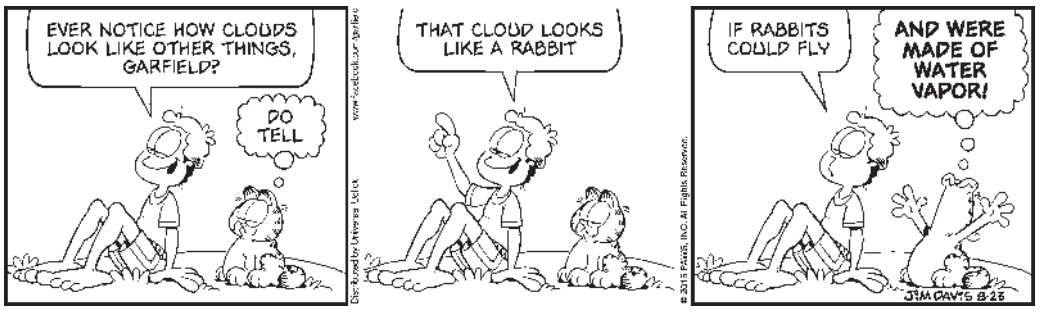
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

FISHING IS THE MOST BORING SPORT IN THE WORLD.
WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR TWENTY MINUTES AND NOT ONE THING HAS HAPPENED!
WAAUGHH!

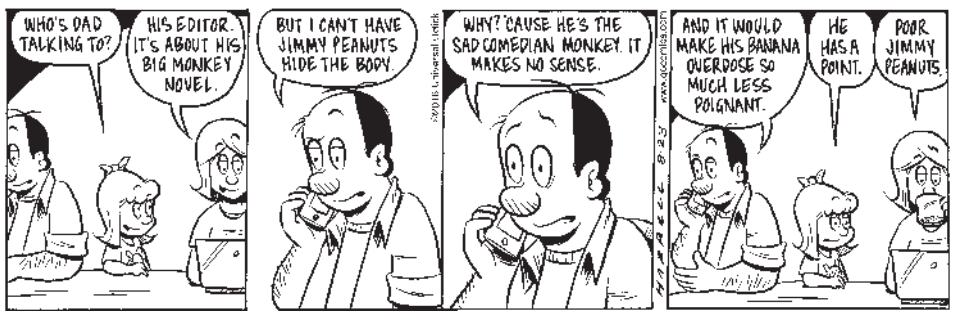
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


EVER NOTICE HOW CLOUDS LOOK LIKE OTHER THINGS, GARFIELD?
DO TELL
THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A RABBIT
IF RABBITS COULD FLY
AND WERE MADE OF WATER VAPOR!
JIM DAVIS 8-23

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHO'S DAD TALKING TO?
HIS EDITOR. IT'S ABOUT HIS BIG MONKEY NOVEL.
BUT I CAN'T HAVE JIMMY PEANUTS. HIDE THE BODY.
WHY? 'CAUSE HE'S THE SAD COMEDIAN MONKEY. IT MAKES NO SENSE.
AND IT WOULD MAKE HIS BANANA OVERDOSE SO MUCH LESS POIGNANT.
HE HAS A POINT.
POOR JIMMY PEANUTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BOY, THE GUY IN THIS SHAVING CREAM AD SURE HAS A PRETTY GIRLFRIEND. I THINK I'LL BUY SOME!
ELVIN, IT TAKES MORE THAN A CERTAIN BRAND OF SHAVING CREAM TO GET A BABE LIKE THAT.
WELL, OBVIOUSLY. YOU HAVE TO BUY THAT SPECIAL DANDRUFF SHAMPOO ALSO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Big bash
5 Baby carriage
9 EMT skill
12 Jai —
13 Shakespearean villain
14 Center
15 "The Wild Bunch" director Sam
17 "Exodus" hero
18 Sail support
19 De Mille of dance
21 Actress Sarandon
24 Smack a baseball
25 "The Good Earth" wife
26 Stimulating drink
30 Whatever
31 Cranial cavity
32 Swiss canton
33 Carry a gun
35 Org.
36 Get wind of
37 Furtive type
38 Top players
40 Regarding
42 Nemesis
43 Prepares to kiss
48 TV spots
49 Paris airport
50 Verdi opera
51 Canape topping
52 Burden
53 Shoelace snarl

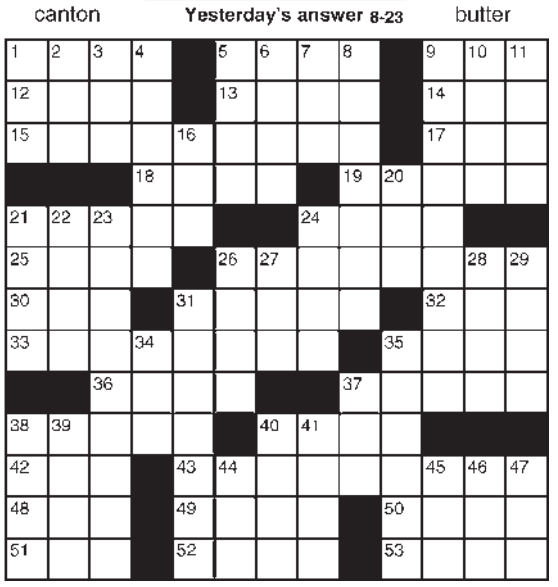
DOWN

1 Hiatus
2 Hearty brew
3 Varnish ingredient
4 Quarterback Troy
5 Brooches
6 Engrossed
7 Khan title
8 Spiky haircuts
9 Edith Piaf, for one
10 Chaste
11 Baseball stats
16 Actor McKellen
20 Leg, in slang
21 Bath bar
22 Radius neighbor
23 "Smile!"
24 Bunny's tail
26 Docking spot
27 — bind
28 Celestial bear
29 Flamingo's hue
31 Rug cleaner
34 Mauna —
35 Parka
37 Sault — Marie
38 Miles away
39 Commotion
40 Rights org.
41 "The — the limit!"
44 Ornate vase
45 Go astray
46 Japanese veggie
47 Bit of butter

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	A	Y	S	■	P	H	I	■	S	T	A	B
A	G	R	A	R	I	A	N	■	N	E	R	O
M	E	S	S	T	E	N	T	■	O	N	T	O
■	■	■	H	E	R	■	E	P	O	N	Y	M
I	D	L	E	S	■	C	R	J	Z	■	■	■
L	C	I	S	■	C	O	N	T	E	N	T	■
L	E	E	■	A	R	■	E	S	■	A	R	K
■	P	U	P	T	F	N	T	■	I	S	F	F
■	■	■	S	E	A	S	■	S	N	A	K	Y
E	S	T	E	E	M	■	S	O	S	■	■	■
G	U	R	U	■	P	E	N	I	T	E	N	T
A	H	I	D	■	I	D	A	H	E	V	C	U
D	E	M	O	■	E	S	P	■	F	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Lin, 28; Kobe Bryant, 38; Scott Caan, 40; Shelley Long, 67.

Happy Birthday: Stay on top of the issues that are taking place all around you. Don't allow stubbornness to take over or keep you from doing the things you enjoy. Embrace life wholeheartedly and don't let uncertainty stand between you and what you want. Ask questions of others and make a point to learn as you go. Your numbers are 1, 7, 16, 21, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your input will be valuable. Professional opportunities will cause some uncertainty. Negotiate on your own behalf and refuse to let outside responsibilities stop you from making the best choices regarding your future. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make the most of a good thing. You can accomplish what you set out to do if you are vocal and organized. Your opinion will make a difference, so don't be afraid to propose an unusual situation. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Work on your own to avoid interference. Problems with children and people from your past can be expected. Stick to your game plan and don't give in to someone who is pressuring you to get involved in a project that doesn't interest you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Jump in and get the party started. You have more going for you than you realize, so stop procrastinating and start doing. A partnership looks promising and will give you the push you need to accomplish your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do your best to keep busy. Avoid emotional encounters with someone in a position of authority. Setting up a meeting with an expert will result in good advice and greater opportunities. Your charm will win approval. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be right on target with regard to what needs to be done to reach your goals. Education and travel should be pursued. A partnership will take an eventful turn that will make it easier to plan for your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Property investments or dealing with institutions should be your top priority. Be willing to look at all aspects of a difficult situation. Good fortune will result from finishing the projects that you start. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The changes that you make professionally will please your peers and boost your confidence and reputation. Favors will be granted, but find out what's expected in return before you proceed. There will be motives behind others' generosity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Ponder any offers you receive. Gather all the facts and learn all you can before you commit to anything. Someone you trust may not come through for you. Make changes based on what you see, not what others say. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll have the upper hand today. Set your sights on what you want to accomplish and don't stop until you finish. A romantic celebration should be planned. Something you least expect will take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anyone meddle in your personal affairs. The only way to reach a suitable agreement is to speak up and offer solutions. Partnerships take work, and with a little effort, you will find common ground. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your ability to put others at ease will help you maneuver your way into a good position. Partnerships look promising and will contribute to your success. Offer an incentive and you'll get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are analytical, sensitive and pragmatic. You are intense and meticulous.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3					2		9
7	2			4		3		
					8		6	1
			9		2	1		
	9			5			8	
		5	6		1			
5	1		7					
		9		3			1	4
6		2					7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	4	6	2	9	7	8	5
7	9	2	5	8	4	3	6	1
6	5	8	1	3	7	2	9	4
8	3	7	9	1	6	5	4	2
9	2	1	4	5	8	6	7	3
4	6	5	3	7	2	9	1	8
1	4	9	2	6	5	8	3	7
5	8	6	7	4	3	1	2	9
2	7	3	8	9	1	4	5	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

COURAGE OF CONVICTION Solution: 10 letters

O	G	O	A	L	T	E	N	A	C	I	T	Y	D	S
R	R	E	G	I	G	D	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S
E	I	U	R	N	E	U	T	R	I	V	O	N	T	M
H	T	I	A	F	S	T	C	A	C	E	E	B	F	O
S	P	H	T	H	G	I	F	O	P	M	M	E	L	D
S	C	H	E	A	R	T	N	H	H	N	A	V	A	E
R	O	D	O	U	B	T	R	S	O	R	E	I	R	E
E	N	I	F	E	R	A	I	I	L	N	R	C	O	R
T	F	S	M	O	S	L	P	E	T	I	D	T	M	F
U	I	S	L	E	P	M	S	U	E	F	D	O	E	N
L	D	E	T	M	A	S	R	E	F	A	A	R	V	D
O	E	C	O	H	N	E	L	P	I	C	N	I	R	P
S	N	C	C	E	G	E	V	I	L	E	G	E	E	A
B	C	U	S	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	E	S	N	I
A	E	S	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	R	O	W	N

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/23

Absolute, Accomplishments, Acts, Attitude, Champion, Change, Confidence, Control, Danger, Doubt, Dream, Face, Faith, Fearlessness, Fight, Freedom, Goal, Grit, Guts, Heart, Hero, Life, Live, Moral, Nerve, Noble, Own, Pain, Passion, Phrase, Powerful, Principle, Refine, Rights, Spirit, Strength, Success, Tenacity, Venture, Victories, Virtue

Yesterday's Answer: Receive

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47,** order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

(1) General Maintenance Worker
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities, and cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects, willing to work flexible hours which may include holidays and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN (01)

- Certified from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick-up applications at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on September 01, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2905, ext. 128.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking to hire qualified U.S. workers for the following position:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications

- **High School Graduate with 2 years experience**
- **Computer literate: Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint plus**
- **Must be able to travel with a US passport**

Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskychefs.com.

WHATZIT Solution:
Parting of the ways

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 1-2 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. All applicants must be of good health and good moral character must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Bldg.1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ARIEL R. DUMAPIT Petitioner	)	FCD-DI-CA NO. 16-0389
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
BETTY JO STEURMANN – DUMAPIT Respondent,	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504373 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads

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A TanHoldings Company

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Qualifications: Must have a degree or diploma in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Management. Minimum of two years similar work experience and preferably with two to four years experience as Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeping Manager or Sales Manager in a hotel of significant volume. Must have at least 4 years of progressive experience in a management level in the Hospitality Industry. Must be able to multi-task and possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Must have excellent oral and written communication. Planning, problem-solving and financial reporting skills are essential. Must have the ability to manage employee performance and run a work team/division in a changing environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the smooth and efficient running of all operational aspects of the Rooms Division of the Resort.

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Qualifications: Ideally a degree in Engineering and Facility Management with extensive exposure to engineering principles and methods; trained or educated in engineering, facilities maintenance or in any related fields; with three to six years of similar experience/or training; or the equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have at least 4 years of senior management experience in the Hospitality Industry or in a facility management role. Must be able to effectively interact with people of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Must possess very good communication and project management skills. The successful candidate will oversee and manage the Resort facilities to ensure that operations and facilities are functioning smoothly and fully and that all guests, employees and associates are safe and secure and the Resort's assets are protected.

Application forms may be obtained at the HRD Office, South Wing, 2nd Floor. Interested applicants may also send their resumes to fiesta_hr@fiestasaipan.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 31, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Cardinals' Mathieu returns: 'I've got my swag back'

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)— Tyrann Mathieu, Justin Bethel and Frostee Rucker practiced for the first time this training camp Sunday and Arizona Cardinals coach Bruce Arians said "there's no doubt" all three will be ready for the Sept. 11 season opener.

Mathieu, an All-Pro safety last season who is coming back from surgery to repair a torn right ACL, participated in several plays 11-on-11 drills with the first unit, surprising himself and his teammates with how much he was able to do.

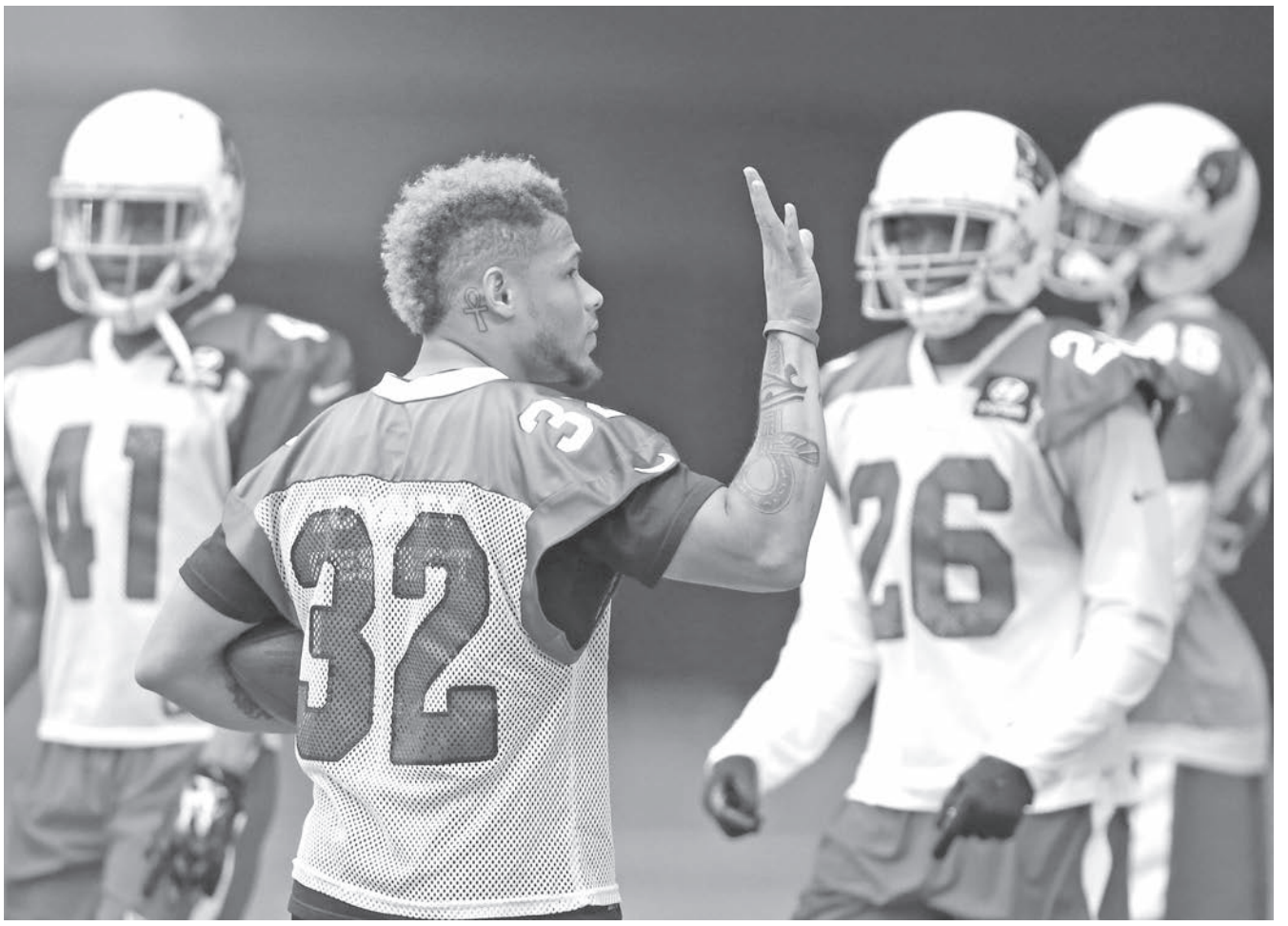
"I've got my swag back," he said. "I feel good, confident."

Bethel, a cornerback, is returning from foot surgery and defensive lineman Rucker had a foot injury that might have been related to offseason ankle surgery.

Arians also welcomed back wide receiver John Brown, out with a concussion since early in camp. However, Brown went back in the locker room after doing some individual work.

Arians said outside linebacker Alex Okafor, who did not practice, had decided to keep playing despite a torn biceps tendon rather than opt for surgery.

Mathieu returns a much wealthier "Honey Badger" after he signed a five-year, $62.5 million that included $21.5 million guaranteed and another $18.75 million guaranteed if he's on the roster at the start of the 2018 season.



AP

An injured Arizona Cardinals' Tyrann Mathieu (32) waves to cheering fans as he stands with teammates Trevon Hartfield (41), Brandon Williams (26), and Tyrequek Zimmerman (45) during practice at the NFL football team's training camp Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz.

The do-everything player is listed as a safety but played more snaps at cornerback last season before he went down with the knee injury on Dec. 20. It was his second significant knee injury in his three NFL seasons. He sustained a far more severe injury to his left knee in his rookie season.

Mathieu said he was "real surprised" by how good he felt and how much he was able to do in his first practice.

"I didn't feel any pain. I didn't really get tight at all," he said. "I was surprised with where I was at but I also was pleased with what I've been doing."

Bethel, a three-time Pro Bowl selection on special teams, started four games at cornerback last season and was considered a leading candidate for the job this year opposite All-Pro Patrick Peterson. But, in Bethel's absence, the job has gone to rookie Brandon Williams.

Bethel, who participated in 7-on-7 drills and a little bit of 11-on-11, said he would love to think he could win the starting job but understands that might not happen.

"Brandon's been playing really well," Bethel said. "Either way, the way we run our defense, we'll all be out there at some point."

Williams struggled in his first preseason game but was noticeably improved in Friday night's 19-3 loss at San Diego. Arians said Williams also showed improvement in the team's two joint practices with the Chargers.

"I thought Brandon got really better last week," Arians said before practice Sunday, "going against different receivers, seeing different things. I thought he held his own all week."

Asked if he thought Mathieu, Bethel and Rucker would be ready for the opener against New England, Arians said, "There's no doubt. It's just a matter of conditioning now, football conditioning, hit, getting the pad level down and all the things we've been doing the last 15-18 days."

Okafor, in the final year of his contract, missed nearly all of his rookie season with a biceps injury but came back with a team-high eight sacks in 2014. He got in the coach's dog house last season when he injured his toe during the team's bye playoff weekend and wasn't able to play in the postseason.

Arians said he was hopeful first-round draft pick, defensive lineman Robert Nkemdiche, would be able to practice some Wednesday. Nkemdiche has been sidelined with a high ankle sprain since rookie training camp four weeks ago.

The Cardinals have been outscored 49-13 in two losses this preseason but Arians brushed aside any concern. He was unhappy -- he used a stronger word -- with the offense's performance in San Diego after the game but didn't dwell on the subject on Sunday.

He considers "95 percent" of the team's problems Friday night to be easily correctable.

"Nobody's shaken in their confidence in any way. It's preseason," Arians said. "I think the tendency (of those outside the team) is `woe is me' but when our starters have played maybe 20 plays, that's not even a good half. We've had bad halves before and come back and won games. So it's not a doomsday situation by any stretch of the imagination."

Injuries hitting Bears hard on offense and defense

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)— By now, the Chicago Bears hoped to be past the injuries plaguing them since training camp began.

Instead, with Saturday's dress rehearsal for the regular season approaching in the third preseason game against Kansas City, the Bears' injury situation only seems to get worse by the day.

"We've got plenty of bodies—we're at 90 players," coach John Fox said Sunday. "At this point you've got plenty of guys out here.

"It gives us a chance to look at some other guys and give them an opportunity to catch our eye."

The Bears had 20 players either injured or sitting out for rest Sunday when they returned to Halas Hall for practice, after losing 23-22 Thursday to the New England Patriots.

They even found they'd lost a few more players due to in-game injuries that cropped up a day later.

Starting running back Jeremy Langford wore a boot cast on an injured left foot and watched from the sideline on Saturday night during a practice held at north suburban Warren High School. The injury occurred in Thursday's game but wasn't evident until the next day.

Starting right guard Kyle Long also missed practices Saturday and Sunday. He's suffering from a shoulder injury.

"I think he's a great player and obviously I'd rather have him out there practicing," Fox said about Long, a three-time Pro Bowl player. "But our goal right now is to get ready for the opener in Houston."

Langford had the boot cast off at Sunday's practice, but a date for his return is uncertain.

The health situation looks no better on defense, where inside linebacker Danny Trevathan missed the last two practices with a pulled hamstring and the right cornerback position has been a revolving door to the trainer's room.

Prior to the game against New England, starting cornerback Kyle Fuller underwent arthroscopic knee surgery.

"It was something that he tried to push through," Fox said. "He showed great determination in doing that. It just wasn't improving.

"They did the scope and hopefully he'll come back fast and furious."

Then Fuller's backup, Bryce Callahan, missed the last two practices with a pulled hamstring. Jacoby Glenn, who replaced Callahan, suffered a concussion against New England.

As a result, starting left cornerback Tracy Porter has found himself on the field trying to coach young players in addition to playing.

"I'm watching those guys, what they're doing, if they're having a missed assignment or having a not-so-good technique that I can help them with," Porter said.

He's trying to instill confidence in rookie fourth-round pick Deiondre' Hall, and other inexperienced players who've been tried at the spot.

"At that position you have to have a ton of confidence, because if you don't, it's like quarterbacks, they can sense that and you'll have a long night," Porter said.

In New York, the Jets might have a budding backup quarterback controversy.

Todd Bowles declined to say Sunday whether Geno Smith remained the team's No. 2 QB behind Ryan Fitzpatrick or if Bryce Petty has surpassed him on the depth chart.

The Jets coach said earlier in training camp that there was no change in the pecking order, but Petty had a strong showing in New York's 22-18 loss at Washington on Friday night. Meanwhile, Smith struggled in the game and appeared to perhaps lose his stranglehold on the backup job.

"I was clear about every position: 1, 2, 3, 4 going in," Bowles said Sunday. "Until we make a change, there won't be (a change). That's any position. When we make a decision at the end of camp, if it changes, it changes. And if it doesn't, it doesn't."

When asked specifically if the order of the depth chart remains Fitzpatrick, Smith, Petty and rookie Christian Hackenberg, Bowles was evasive.

"Right now, they're all playing," he said, "and we're trying to see who sorts out what."

Against Redskins backups and playing with the second-team offense, Smith was 6 of 13 for 47 yards and an interception. With mostly third-stringers in, Petty was 16 of 26 for 242 yards and two touchdowns.

Bowles acknowledged that he has a plan for the quarterback rotation for the Jets' third preseason game against the Giants on Saturday night, but would not say what it is.

Fitzpatrick and the starters will play a bit more in the game, the normal routine for the third preseason game. But beyond that, it's uncertain.

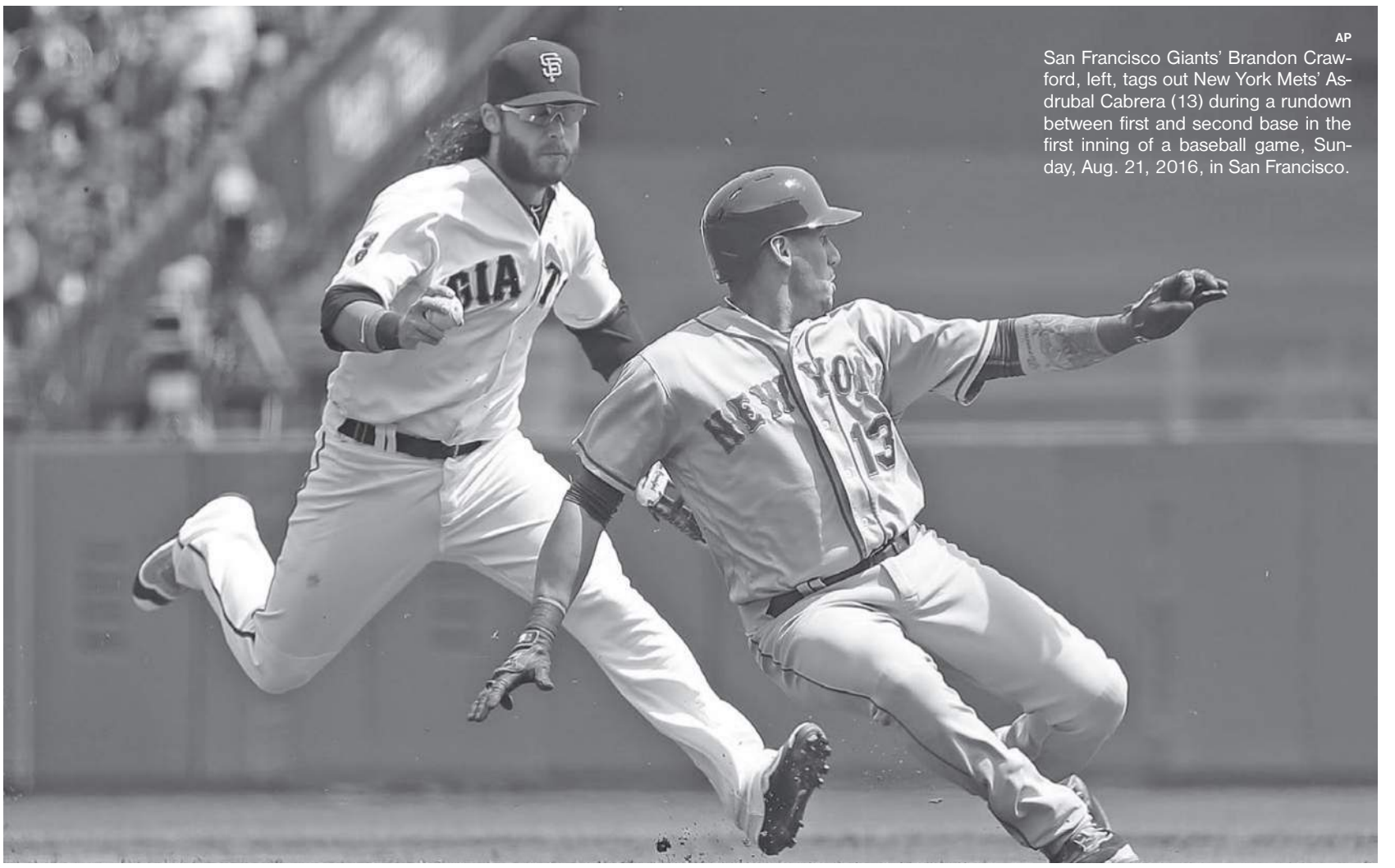
"All of them have to be up to play," Bowles said. "We have a plan for the quarterbacks that we're not revealing. On Saturday, we'll play the guys that we have scheduled to play. But we do have a plan to play certain people."

Bowles was then asked if Geno Smith will be the second quarterback into the game.

"To be clear, we have a plan on who we're going to play that we're not going to reveal," Bowles said.

Smith is entering his fourth NFL season and had a mostly solid offseason and camp. But his performance, compared to that of Petty might have narrowed the gap between the two a bit.

Mets beat Giants, still aiming for playoffs



AP
San Francisco Giants' Brandon Crawford, left, tags out New York Mets' Asdrubal Cabrera (13) during a rundown between first and second base in the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016, in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With 38 games left and three teams standing between the Mets and the second NL wild card, manager Terry Collins is convinced his ballclub can still make a serious push for the playoffs.

A strong outing from Noah Syndergaard and another home run from slugger Yoenis Cespedes certainly helped.

Syndergaard and Jeurys Familia combined on a three-hitter and Cespedes homered off Jeff Samardzija, leading New York over the San Francisco Giants 2-0 on Sunday night.

"We've had a tough time, but if you're going to win, your good players have to play good," Collins said. "We ride those guys. Hopefully this is the start of what we've been looking to do."

Cespedes homered for the third time in two days to help split the four-game series. It was also the 900th victory of Collins' career, making him the 10th active manager to reach the milestone.

Syndergaard (11-7) allowed two hits over eight innings for his second consecutive win following a six-start skid. It's Syndergaard's 20th career victory in 49 games, coming in what Collins called his best outing "in a long time."

Syndergaard faced one over the minimum and didn't allow a runner past first base.

That helped the Mets stay within 4 1/2 games of St. Louis for the second NL wild card.

"Today was the first day I went out there and actually relaxed and had fun," Syndergaard said. "I just kept things simple. The past month and a half I've been trying to think too far in advance."

Samardzija (10-9) held the Mets hitless until Curtis Granderson's leadoff double in the seventh. Cespedes followed with his 25th home run, a towering two-run blast that appeared to clear the stands in left field.

"I've had big power hitters but I haven't had anybody (where) the ball comes off the barrel of the bat like that," Collins said. "I mean nobody. The ball just jumps off his bat."

Familia retired three batters for his major league-leading 41st save.

Rockies 11, Cubs 4

In Denver, Nolan Arenado broke out of a slump in a big way, hitting two homers and driving in six runs to boost the Colorado Rockies over the Chicago Cubs.

Arenado hit a three-run homer during a seven-run burst in the first inning that included three Cubs errors, then added another three-run drive in the fourth.

Arenado leads the majors with 104 RBI—he had a big league-high 130 last year—and tops the NL with 32 home runs. The All-Star third baseman was 1 of 16 on the Rockies' homestand before getting four hits. He passed Cubs slugger Kris Bryant for the NL homer lead.

Jorge De La Rosa (8-7) tossed eight innings, giving up a pair of home runs to Addison Russell.

De La Rosa delivered a two-run single in the first as the Rockies quickly ended Jason Hammel's 22-inning scoreless streak. Hammel (13-6) had been 6-0 with an 0.95 ERA since the All-Star before getting roughed up. The Rockies scored 10 runs off him, six earned, in 3 1/3 innings.

DJ LeMahieu also homered for Colorado.

Dodgers 4, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Chase Utley homered on the fourth pitch of the game, 20-year-old Julio Urias won his third straight decision and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati to end a three-game losing streak.

Los Angeles moved into the NL West lead, a half-game ahead of San Francisco.

Utley connected against Anthony DeSclafani (7-2) for his third home run of the trip and 11th this season, then had an RBI single in the third and scored on Cory Seager's hit for a 3-0 lead. Utley homered twice Tuesday at Philadelphia, his former team.

Royals 2, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Danny Duffy won his 10th straight decision, Eric Hosmer doubled in the go-ahead run and Kansas City beat Minnesota for its eighth consecutive win.

The Royals swept a four-game series from the Twins for the first time since 1999 and have their longest winning streak since an eight-game run Aug. 3-11, 2014.

Duffy (11-1), unbeaten since June 6, improved to 5-0 with a 1.18 ERA in August. He left after 6 2/3 innings, allowing one run and a season-high eight hits while walking two and striking out four.

Cardinals 9, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Mike Leake pitched seven strong innings and hit a two-run single and St. Louis homered four times to rout Philadelphia.

Jedd Gyorko, Stephen Piscotty, Brandon Moss and Jeremy Hazelbaker went deep. The Cardinals had hit multiple home runs in nine straight games, tying a major league record, before failing to connect Saturday night in a 4-2 loss. Jhonny Peralta added three hits as the Cardinals finished a 6-3 trip. They remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Miami for the final wild-card spot in the National League.

Braves 7, Nationals 6, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Jace Peterson hit a tiebreaking homer in the 10th inning off Shawn Kelley to lift Atlanta past Washington in a game delayed 1 hour, 4 minutes in the bottom of the eighth.

Kelley (1-2) hung his head and walked toward the dugout as soon as Peterson made contact with his seventh homer. Kelley gave up one hit and one run in two-thirds of an inning.

Astros 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Dallas Keuchel was solid through eight innings, Yulieski Gurriel got a hit in his major league debut and Houston beat Baltimore in a rain-delayed game.

The Astros won the last three games in the four-game series, outscoring Baltimore 32-13 over that stretch. The slumping Orioles have lost four of five and are 9-16 over their past 25 games.

Marlins 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Christian Yelich homered in the first inning, Miami added a pair of unearned runs and the Marlins rallied past Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

Jose Urena (2-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings to help the Marlins sweep a series for the sixth time this season.

Tigers 10, Red Sox 5

In Detroit, Justin Upton hit two three-run homers and struggling Detroit finished its homestand with victory over Boston and fill-in starter Henry Owen.

The Tigers won for just the fourth time in 14 games, and went 2-5 on their stay at Comerica Park. Boston has lost just two of its last 10.

Justin Verlander (13-7) allowed one run on three hits in six innings before being pulled with a nine-run lead. He's 6-1 in his last 10 starts.

Indians 3, Blue Jays 2

In Cleveland, Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona was relieved following Sunday's 3-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer off Brett Cecil in the eighth inning and the Indians rallied to win the series between AL division leaders.

"We won two out of three, and I think we had the lead for like 10 minutes," Francona said.

The series featured three one-run games, large crowds and a playoff-like atmosphere.

Angels 2, Yankees 0

In Anaheim, Albert Pujols had three hits and scored twice on singles by Andrelton Simmons, leading Los Angeles past New York.

Jhoulys Chacin (4-8) allowed six hits over 5 2/3 innings, struck out four and walked one in his first scoreless start since April 12 for Atlanta. Deolis Guerra, JC Ramirez and Fernando Salas followed with hitless relief. Salas pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

White Sox 4, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Jose Quintana pitched into the eighth innings for his career-best 10th win and Jose Abreu homered for the second straight game to lead Chicago past Oakland.

Todd Frazier had three hits and drove in two runs, and Justin Morneau added an RBI double in Chicago's three-run first as the White Sox took the final two games of the series and handed Oakland its seventh loss in eight games.

Rays 8, Rangers 4

In St. Petersburg, Logan Forsythe homered after missing four games because of back spasms, and Tampa Bay beat Texas to take two of three from the AL West-leading Rangers.

Forsythe hit an opposite-field, three-run shot off Martin Perez (8-9) in a five-run fourth that made it 6-2. He has six homers in his last 10 games.

Brewers 7, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Keon Broxton and Chris Carter homered and Scooter Gennett had an RBI single during a four-run ninth inning, and Milwaukee beat Seattle to end a six-game losing streak.

The Brewers trailed 6-3 after eight innings but rallied against Tom Wilhelmsen (2-4). Broxton hit his second solo homer of the game and Carter followed with a two-run shot, his 29th, to tie it.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, Luis Perdomo ended a three-start losing streak, Travis Jankowski and Alex Dickerson homered, and San Diego beat Arizona for a four-game split.

Perdomo (6-7) took a shutout into the seventh and wound up allowing an unearned run and five hits in seven innings. Perdomo, a right-hander who had never pitched above Class A before this season, also beat the Diamondbacks at Arizona on July 4.

US romps to men's basketball gold, beats Serbia

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The trip wasn't always easy, though they arrived at their expected destination.

The players on the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team never doubted they would be standing on the gold-medal platform, even after some close calls in Rio and criticisms they lacked the usual big names and bigger wins.

"I know there was kind of a lot of buzz around us not playing well a couple of games, two, three games in the early round," Carmelo Anthony said, "but the way that we locked in and the way that we focused in to be able to have this gold medal around our necks was special."

Saving their best for last in a tournament that had been tough, the Americans convincingly won their third straight gold medal, beating Serbia 96-66 on Sunday.

"We came here and despite what people are saying about this group, being less talented and not blowing teams out, we did a good job of bottling all that up and unleashed it on Serbia," forward Paul George said.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points in the final game with the national team for Mike Krzyzewski, who took the Americans back to the top and leaves with them there after becoming the first coach to win three Olympic gold medals.

"To go home as gold medalists and leave Coach K off with another gold was one of our main goals as well," Durant said.

Anthony also picked up his third gold to go with a bronze, becoming the most decorated male in Olympic basketball history.

The U.S. beat Serbia by just 94-91 in pool play, holding on when Bogdan Bogdanovic missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. This rematch looked nothing like that meeting, but it did resemble the final of the 2014 Basketball World Cup, which the Americans won 129-92.

"To come out there and play as well as we did against a team that had stepped up their play as well, it showed that we came together at the right time," Durant said.

Anthony checked back into the rout in the final minutes so he could grab a seventh rebound, passing David Robinson for U.S. record with the 125th in his Olympic career. He had already become the leading scorer earlier in the tournament, capping an Olympic career that began with disappointment as a member of the U.S. team that finished third in 2004.

The Americans haven't lost since, winning 25 straight in the Olympics.

A few of the victories were more difficult than usual in this tournament, where half the Americans' eight games were decided by 10 points or fewer.

Krzyzewski said it didn't matter how the Americans won, that there would be no questions as long as they did.

And there was no doubt they would Sunday once Durant heated up.

He had also scored 30 in the 2012 gold-medal game, after he poured in a U.S.-record 38 in one game en route to the MVP of the 2010 world basketball championship. He is already the Americans' No. 2 career scorer in the Olympics in just two appearances.

When the final horn sounded, the U.S. players shared long hugs with each other and then Krzyzewski.

It was a tough ending after an impressive run for Serbia in its first Olympics as an independent nation. The heart of an international power in the former Yugoslavia, the Serbs hadn't qualified for the Olympics since gaining their independence in 2006.

They dropped three games in the group stage but had the look of a team that could challenge the Americans after nearly knocking them off earlier in the tournament and overwhelming Australia in the semifinals.

They were down just 16-15 before Durant made a 3-pointer for the final points of the first quarter, and before they knew it he had turned the game into a blowout.

"They are superstars. If you let them play like they want, they will kill you," guard Stefan Markovic said. "Each of their 12 guys can do that."

A challenging year for the Americans started long before they boarded the cruise ship they stayed on while in Rio. For the first time since 2004, many top American players opted to skip the Olympics, forcing them to bring some here who wouldn't have been considered otherwise.

AP

United States' DeAndre Jordan (6) dunks against Serbia during the men's gold medal basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016.

USA

From Page 28

me," said U.S. gymnast and closing ceremony flagbearer Simone Biles, who won five medals, four of them gold, in her first Olympics.

For the fourth consecutive games, U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps left with more medals than anyone else. He won six in Rio, while Biles and U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky each won five to lead to lead a big haul from American women.

U.S. women left Rio with 27 golds—by far the most among any team of female Olympians at these games—and 61 medals total. U.S. track star Allyson Felix, now a six-time gold medalist and a winner of nine medals in all, was particularly delighted to learn that women are bringing more medals home to American than the men.

"Got 'em," Felix said, smiling.

By now, the Americans winning the medal race is almost commonplace. But the significance in Rio were the sheer amounts of hardware.

The previous record for U.S. medals at a fully attended Olympics was 110, set at Beijing eight years ago. And the margin between first and second in the overall medals race this year tops all others (the boycotted games of 1980 and 1984 excluded) since the Americans won 67 more medals than Italy did at the 1932 Los Angeles Games.

"We weren't sure we were going to have that kind of success coming in," said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun, noting the track and swimming teams had plenty of first-time Olympians.

But Blackmun was thrilled by the results, and he wasn't the only one leaving Rio happy.

Even with far fewer athletes competing in Rio than it had in London four years ago - and no home-field advantage this time, either—Britain got more medals than ever in the modern games. The British won 67 medals in Rio, 27 of them gold.

"The atmosphere at the GB house has been amazing in the village," said Mo Farah, who won gold for Britain in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races to match the feat he pulled off at London in 2012. "Winning medals and just one after the other. Gold, silver, bronze. The atmosphere has been brilliant. To be able to go even further than London, I think as a nation we should be proud."

The Russians and the Chinese probably didn't feel the same.

China won 26 golds, just over half as many as it won in Beijing in 2008. Russia - with its track team told to stay home because of the doping probe and a cloud hovering over its athletes who were in Rio, some of whom got publicly called out by competitors—finished with 19 golds and 56 medals overall, both well below its normal showings.

U.S. swimmer Lilly King beat Russia's Yulia Efimova for the 100-meter breaststroke gold, doing so after saying the games should have no room for dopers. Efimova has twice been banned.

"I stand by what I said," King said.

"It was not positive," Efimova told the BBC. "It was like war."

There were plenty of positives for others, however.

Usain Bolt finished off his triple-triple - three Olympics, three sprint golds in each - for Jamaica, in what he said was his last games. Neymar's game-winning penalty kick decided a shootout and clinched the men's soccer gold medal for Brazil, a host that wasn't a factor in the medal standings but got the gold that it probably wanted most.

And 10 teams—including the independent team—won their first golds, including Monica Puig in women's tennis for Puerto Rico.

"That island has given me so much," Puig said. "So much love and support throughout my career and I just wanted this one for them."

CNMI

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the doubles competition after partnering with Ken Song.

Schorr and Song clinched the division's doubles championship after sweeping their foes. They first downed Vanuatu's Samuel Strid and Warea Tigona in the semis, 6-1, 6-1, and then had a similar two-set victory over Tahiti's Brendon Fong and Vaitea Molinier, 6-2, 6-2, to rule the boys U14 doubles.

In the girls U16 doubles, Lee and Heras also did not drop a single set en route to bagging the division championship. The CNMI duo shut down Tahiti's Naia Guitton and Tonga's Skylawn Palelei, 6-0, 6-0, in the semis before topping Fiji's Ruby Coffin and Vienna Kumar in the finals, 6-2, 6-2. Hera and Lee's fellow CNMI player Tania Tan won the consolation draw in the division, teaming up with the Federated State of Micronesia's Sunshine Palik in beating Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti and Samoa's Maanaima Tausi, 4-1, 4-1.

With its four first place finishes, the CNMI defeated the favored and perennial first placer Tahiti and the 12 other island-nations in the race for the most championships in the POJC. Tahiti had three titles with its team topping the boys U12 and U16 doubles, while its third crown came from the girls U14 doubles with Lamorelle sharing the title with Eleanor Schuster. Fiji gained two, courtesy of Saoirse Breen's victories in the girls U12 singles and doubles (with the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan), while Vanuatu had the same output, thanks to boys U12 champion Maui Leflon and boys U16 winner Clement Mainguy.

"All our hard work paid off. We would like to thank all our sponsors and the players' parents for the support. Special thanks to PIC for allowing us to use their courts for our local tournaments," Race said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last night.

In other divisions, the CNMI got two second place finishers with Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik and Conatsu Kaga and Malika Miyawaki advancing to the finals of the boys U12 and girls U14 divisions, respectively.

Miyawaki and Conatsu defeated Tonga's Kava Taufa and American Samoa's Crystal Christman in the semis, 6-2, 6-2, to march into the finals where they fell to Samoa's Schuster and Tahiti's Lea Lamorelle, 2-6, 0-6. Woo and Paik also took only two sets to eliminate FSM's Jason Freddy and New Caledonia's Robin Seelan in the semis, 6-3, 7-5, before the CNMI duo bowed to Tahiti's Manovai Elie and Haunui Montas in the finals, 6-3, 4-6, 8-10.

2 CNMI teams off to AFC tournaments

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two CNMI national teams are leaving for China to participate in Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournaments.

Heading first to the host country is the CNMI U16 Girls National Team, which will compete in the AFC U-16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier. The squad is made up of 20 players, who were introduced to the public yesterday during a send-off ceremony at Kanoa Resort. The list includes goalies Toremy Diaz and Irish Viray, defenders Princess Alcantara, Anela Duenas, Ericka Santiago, Samantha Manacop, Patricia Surima, Grace Choi, and Franchesca Bucalig, midfielders Jerlyn Castillo, Leisha Sally, Valeria Myers, Esther Jones, Gillian Villagomez, and Jasmine Phan, forwards Katherine Magat, Jobelle Tabuena, and Ruschelle Valino and team captains Lyka Sally and Guinevere Borja.

Taketomo Suzuki is the squad's coach and will be assisted by Patricia Coleman. Olympian Luam Khen Koo is the head of the delegation and completing the group are team manager Gigi Zapanta, equipment manager Longwen Ji, team supervisor Yu Hung Lee, and physiotherapist Pam Carhill.

The CNMI U16 Girls National Team will be challenging India, Malaysia, South Korea, and the Philippines in the qualifier, which will run from Aug. 28 to Sept. 5 at the Luneng Football School in Weifang. The Commonwealth bets are in Group B of the qualifier, which is divided into four pools with the top finisher in each group following a round-robin play advancing to the finals that will be held next year. The CNMI delegation will leave Saipan for Weifang this Friday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the CNMI U16 Girls National Team pose for a photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort. The group is heading to Weifang, China for the AFC U-16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U14 Boys National Team players and officials gather for a photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort. The team is going to Beijing, China to join the AFC U14 Football Festival.

The CNMI U14 Boys National Team, on the other hand, will depart for Beijing on Sept. 4 to participate in the 2016 AFC U14 Festival.

The Commonwealth, through the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, is sending an 18-player squad to Beijing with captains John Michael Rojas and Sebastien Manabat leading the roster. Other members of the team are Mark Salamat, Kirt Andon, Ichiro Borja, Terrance Montenegro, John Guiller Canape, Jamin Elliot, Edward Cho, Mark Esalan, Joshua Waldon, Brandon Delos Reyes, Christian Aldan, Kirro Batino, Thomas Benavente, John Paul Cruz, Joshua Mendez, and Eun Syu Hahn.

Jersh Angeles is the team's coach and will work with assistant Wai Wo Lee. NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National Team coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi is the head of the delegation, while Jungsang Park is the group's physiotherapist.

"Every time we are holding a send-off ceremony, I feel very proud and happy because this means our players are competing in a higher-level tournament. This means that they are working hard to become better players and when they return they will inspire other players to do the same—train hard and develop their skills so someday they will be the one who will represent the CNMI in these tournaments," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

The CNMI's girls U16 and boys U14 crew are the fourth and fifth teams that NMIFA will be fielding in off-island competitions this year. The first three were the NMI Girls U14 National Team that joined the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships at the Xianghe Football Training Center in Beijing in May and the CNMI men's and women's national nationals squads in Guam for the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1 held last June.

"This is another exposure, another experience for our players and all these will help them become better. Play hard and continue being good ambassadors of the CNMI," NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka told the players at the send-off ceremony attended by other local football officials, club members and officers, and fellow players from teams that had been to off-island competitions.

Samba, reflections and pride in final Rio Olympics party

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Shaking to samba and expressing a sense of longing with uniquely Brazilian words, Olympians and fans said goodbye to the Rio Games with one last big bash that was both revelatory and a sigh of relief.

The closing ceremony Sunday celebrated the 16-day spectacle that was the Rio Games, which combined numerous highlights with ugly and even bizarre episodes that sometimes overshadowed competition. Cariocas - as Rio's residents are known —weren't swayed by the issues that led up to these Olympics, and braved rain and strong winds on the final night to cap their moment in the worldwide spotlight.

While South America's first Olympics are over, safely and with a grandiose finale, many problems remain. Still, Brazil showed Sunday it still definitely knows how to party.

"These were marvelous Olympic Games in the 'marvelous city,'" said International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, playing off the "cidade maravilhosa" nickname of Brazil's postcard city of inviting coastlines, year-round sun and lush tropical vegetation.

While the stadium erupted in applause at that declaration, a few minutes later there were boos of sadness when Bach announced: "I declare the Games of the XXXI Olympiad closed."

The closing ceremony in iconic Maracana Stadium was also meant to take care of some business—formally signaling the transition to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan.

But Sunday's party was all about Brazil, designed to be more low-key than the opening, which focused heavily on Rio.

The ceremony featured original footage of Alberto Santos Dumont, the man that Brazilians recognize as the inventor of the airplane. The theme, "Brazilians can do with their bare hands," was a nod to the emerging economy of the world's fifth most populous nation.

Dressed in colorful feathers, dozens of dancers formed in the shape of the arches of Lapa, a popular area of Rio akin to Roman ruins, then morphed to make the shape of iconic Sugarloaf before quickly changing again, this time to the official 2016 symbol.

Samba legend Martinho da Vila, whose tunes make their way into many popular telenovelas, sang "Carinhoso," or "Affectionate."

Olympians poured in under light rain, waving their flags while many shook their bodies to samba-infused pop that made the stadium feel like a Carnival parade. Britain's athletes wore shoes with soles that lit up in changing colors of red, white and blue, while Tongan taekwondo athlete Pita Taufatofua danced onstage in a grass skirt as a DJ performed, reprising a moment that captured attention when he carried the flag for his country during the opening ceremony.

AP

Flags are carried into the closing ceremony in the Maracana stadium at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016.

Cardinals' Mathieu returns: 'I've got my swag back'

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Sports

Mets beat Giants, still aiming for playoffs

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CNMI gets most titles in POJC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Junior Tennis Team players and coach Jeff Race, standing right, pose for a photo after playing in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last Sunday in Lautoka, Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI earned the most championships in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships that concluded last Sunday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The Jeff Race-coached CNMI Junior Tennis Team got two more titles in the doubles events to bring its total to four. Carol Lee, who earlier handed the Commonwealth its first championship in the POJC this year after dominating anew the girls U16 singles, added the division's doubles crown to her collection after teaming up with Isabel Heras. Robbie Schorr, who gave the CNMI the boys U14 singles plum, was also triumphant in

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Bears dominate SBL awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With their regular season and finals sweeps, it's no longer surprising to see the Chalan Kanoa Bears collect the most individual awards in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfiel

The pennant and 2016 champions hauled nine trophies, four of them came from A.J. Lizama, who was named the batting and RBI champ and also took the regular season and Finals MVP awards. He had a batting average off .466 after going 27-for-58 in the Bears 14-game sweep in the elimination and recorded 20 RBIs.

Other Bears awardees were ERA champion Jeffrey Lizama, Manager of the Year Henry Lizama, Coach of the Year Joe C. Lizama, and Golden Glove (outfield) Henry Lizama Jr.

The BSI Aces' Lamarc Iguel shared the Golden Glove (infield) award with Lizama Jr., and the former added the triples and home run champion trophies to his credit. Lamarc had four triples, matching the output of GSM Brewers' Nokki Saralu and the two players were also the winners in the home run race, joining the Bears' Peyton Lizama in a three-way tie after each rounded the bases just once this season.

Saralu got his second individual award when he took the doubles champion trophy. He made six doubles. The BSI' Aces' Juan Iguel was also the lone recipient of the most runs awards after posting 24.

Completing the list of the awardees for the 2016 season were Juan's teammate Michael Muna and the GSM' Brewers' Pat Alepuyo. Alepuyo was the Catcher of the Year, while Muna took the Pitcher of the Year award along with the strikeout champion trophy after fanning out 64 batters in the elimination round.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Bears' A.J. Lizama is at bat one of their games in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Team USA takes Rio medal race with ease

AP
United States' Allyson Felix, left, hands off to English Gardner in a women's 4x100-meter relay rerun after dropping the baton in the race in the morning during the athletics competitions of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016.

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

OLYMPIC GAMES Rio2016 Roundup

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— The U.S. Olympic Team made itself right at home in Rio.

The British, they had a Games to savor as well.

The host Brazilians got soccer gold that they craved, the Russians struggled on the heels of the exposure of a state-sponsored doping program, and the Chinese finished well below expectations.

So went the medal race at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, where the Americans - with women leading the way - dominated both the gold and overall totals. The U.S. finished with 46 gold medals and 121 medals overall, its 51-total-medal margin over second-place China the largest in a non-boycotted Olympics in nearly a century.

"This experience has been the dream of a lifetime for

See USA on Page 26

Rio2016

MEDAL COUNT

COUNTRIES	G	S	B	T
UNITED STATES	46	37	38	121
GREAT BRITAIN	27	23	17	67
CHINA	26	18	26	70
RUSSIA	19	18	19	56
GERMANY	17	10	15	42
JAPAN	12	8	21	41
FRANCE	10	18	14	42
KOREA	9	3	9	21
ITALY	8	12	8	28
AUSTRALIA	8	11	10	29
NETHERLANDS	8	7	4	19
HUNGARY	8	3	4	15
BRAZIL	7	6	6	19
SPAIN	7	4	6	17
KENYA	6	6	1	13
JAMAICA	6	3	2	11
CROATIA	5	3	2	10
CUBA	5	2	4	11
NEW ZEALAND	4	9	5	18
CANADA	4	3	15	22
UZBEKISTAN	4	2	7	13
KAZAKHSTAN	3	5	9	17
COLOMBIA	3	2	3	8
SWITZERLAND	3	2	2	7
IRAN	3	1	4	8

FINAL STANDINGS

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